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WIN A PALMTOP PERSONAL COMPUTER

INTERFACE



CAN TODAY'S ACTORS ACT?

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STICKING WITH A LOSING TEAM?

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Half of today's flights are cancelled

BA threatens to end perks of strikers

By Philip Bassett and Harvey Elliott

BRITISH AIRWAYS cabin staff who join the 72-hour strike due to start this morning will lose perks and promotion for three years — and face a lock-out after the stoppage unless they promise to work normally.

The threat of immediate sanctions came as the airline prepared to cancel half of today's 330 scheduled flights from Heathrow and Gatwick. Similar cancellations will follow tomorrow and on Friday, and the Transport and General Workers Union is expected to call further three-day stoppages next week and the week after.

BA split out its hard line even as it held last-minute talks with union leaders aimed at averting the strike due to start at 6am. The company said that anyone striking today would lose their staff travel concessions until March 2000, become ineligible for promotion until the same date, and lose the option of applying for early retirement or severance pay.

Strikers would also be telephoned and asked to promise not to join any future action. If they refused, they would not be rostered for work from Saturday and therefore not paid. Managers accepted that the tactic could lead to further disruption, since the company might not have enough staff to fill the roles, but an official said: "We are confident you can restart services on Saturday."

BA is also reserving the right to dismiss strikers and



has said that it might sue individuals for its losses — an unprecedented move in British employment relations. The airline believes that it has already lost more than £15 million in future bookings.

But the tough approach was attacked by Labour MPs who signed a series of Commons motions on the dispute yesterday. Twenty condemned the "macho management" of the chief executive Robert Ayling, and a handful backed Ken Livingstone's motion supporting the strike, even though Tony Blair clearly wants to keep his Government out of the conflict.

The TGWU, which is negotiating on behalf of its members who belong to the British Airline Stewards and Stewardesses Association (BASSA), claimed that there had been major intimidation of its members but George Ryde, the union's national air transport secretary, said: "We are confi-

dent that the union's strike call will be supported by its members." Another official said: "We regret that even at the 11th hour, BA is still concentrating on intimidation and confrontation rather than negotiation."

The union yesterday asked the company to negotiate on an agreement accepted by the more moderate union Cabin Crew 89 and imposed on all 12,000 cabin staff two months ago. But Sir Colin Marshall, the chairman, refused saying: "This deal is what they wanted for many years and it was reached months ago. We can't rewrite it. We can't go on revisiting the issue."

"This is a dispute about rivalry between two unions and is extremely unfortunate and regrettable. But we can't go on having problems like this. I am sure they will want to target our annual general meeting next week, and the sooner it is over and done with, the better, so we can have a return to common sense."

Cabin Crew 89, which broke away from the TGWU eight years ago and now has about 3,500 members, described the deal it negotiated as "the best in British aviation". Gordon White, the national secretary, said: "British Airways cabin crew are now paid 25 per cent more than others operating in any other airline. But BASSA are resentful of our deal and have misled and misinformed their members in a shameful manner before leading them to a strike."

"I will only cost jobs because customers who are forced to fly on other airlines simply will not come back. We have seen this happen to PanAm and TWA and it will happen to BA if this kind of nonsense goes on. To put crew members' jobs at risk when there is no good reason is unforgivable."

Cabin Crew 89 claims that it is recruiting 50 members a day because people did not want to go on strike, and 1,113 Continued on page 2, col 3

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John Monks, page 18



Nelson Mandela and Graca Machel arrive hand-in-hand at Heathrow yesterday

Mandela's open secret

By Ray Kennedy and Daniel McGrory

NELSON MANDELA and Graca Machel made no secret of their obvious affection as they arrived at Heathrow yesterday for a three-day visit to London. But the South African President was coy about whether he will marry his official escort, the widow of Samora Machel, the former president of Mozambique.

The couple exchanged private jokes on their way to visit the Queen for tea at Buckingham Palace, but seemed perplexed at the fascination with their relationship. He made jokes about it. She appeared embarrassed.

What is undeniable is that the elegant figure of Mrs Machel is seldom far from the President's side, though close

aides insist Mr Mandela has reportedly resolved that, at 78, he will not marry for a third time until he stands down as President in three years' time. From the moment they left the aircraft they were inseparable. She rested her head on his shoulder while, with unfailing good humour, he fielded a volley of questions about his marital intentions.

He teased that while he was meeting the Queen, the Prince of Wales and Tony Blair in the next 72 hours, the real reason for his trip was as "the companion" of Mrs Machel, 51, who receives an honorary degree from Essex University tomorrow.

A United Nations emissary for children, she gripped the

President's hand and led him to his limousine before he could betray more. An hour later, as they strolled to their Dorchester suite, the couple again held hands as they faced more questions about their relationship. Asked bluntly if he will marry Mrs Machel, Mr Mandela squeezed her hand, and said: "Those are questions one doesn't discuss in public."

Mr Mandela last night revealed he has transferred most of his official duties to Thabo Mbeki, his designated successor. He will mark his 79th birthday — on July 18 — by starting a children's charity funded by his salary.

Diary, page 18

Interest rates set to rise after surge in inflation

By Alasdair Murray, Christine Buckley and Philip Webster

MORE increases in interest rates to control consumer demand appeared inevitable yesterday after a surge in inflation last month.

The Bank of England is expected to raise rates by at least a further quarter-point to 6.75 per cent tomorrow. That would add £14 a month to an average £150,000 mortgage. Homeowners already face a £10 a month increase in mortgage costs as a result of the cut in interest rate relief (Miras) announced in last week's Budget.

Politicians in all parties voiced concern yesterday over the impact of a still strengthening pound on exporters. Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor, said it was now the "major threat to Britain's economic wellbeing."

Wet weather and increased mortgage costs combined to send the headline rate of inflation rising to 2.9 per cent in June. It meant that Gordon Brown's target of 2.5 per cent for underlying inflation had been missed in his first full month.

There were jitters through the Stock Market with the FTSE 100 closing down 52.2 at 4758.5. But the pound soared to a six year high against the German mark of DM2.97 before declining slightly to DM2.9693.

Mr Clarke warned Eddie George, the Bank Governor, to hold back on interest rates. He confirmed that he had rejected the Bank's call to raise rates in the months before the election because he felt the pound was already too strong. Most Labour MPs have supported Mr Brown's decision to give the Bank operational charge over interest rates, but some are beginning

to voice misgivings over the likely impact if rates continue to be used as the main tool for controlling consumer spending.

The renewed rise in the pound prompted the Engineering Employers' Federation to call on the Bank to consider the impact of further interest rate rises on exporters. The federation's latest quarterly survey showed export orders falling to their lowest level in three years. Engineering firms have shed about 18,000 jobs so far this year.

Economists said yesterday that about half the rise in headline inflation had been caused by the May rise in interest rates pushing up

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mortgage costs. Prices of seasonal foods, which normally fall during the summer, also showed the largest June increase since 1978 due to last month's wet weather.

David Coleman, chief economist at CIBC Wood Gundy, said: "Setting interest rates according to the weather might be stretching bearishness a little too far."

High Street prices of household goods and clothing and footwear, which have enjoyed strong sales recently on the back of windfall payouts, actually fell slightly in June. Service sector inflation also declined from 3.3 per cent to 3.2 per cent.

Separate data produced by the Office for National Statistics showed that tax changes announced in the Budget will eventually add 0.4 per cent to the rate of inflation.

FLIGHT INFORMATION

BA says that the following services will operate today, however many cabin crew report for work:

- All domestic and European flights to and from Gatwick.
- All international flights to and from UK regional airports.
- All UK domestic services other than those serving Heathrow.
- All flights operated by British Regional Airlines, Ryanair, Loggans, Wizzair, Air, GB Airways, CityFlyer, Express, TAT, and Deutsche BA.

Qantas, Comair, Canadian International, America West, Sun Air and British Mediterranean.

The following services from Gatwick are cancelled: Atlanta, New York, Legos, Charlotte, Kano, Phoenix, Kingston, Baltimore and Harare. More information is available from travel agents, on ITV Television, page 380, on the information hotline, 0800 727800 and on the Internet: <http://www.british-airways.com/strike/>

Third victim

Keith Riddell, yesterday became the third victim of the school coach crash on the French Alps. Page 5

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Uxbridge by-election on July 31

By Philip Webster

THE Government will face the first test of its standing since the general election at the end of this month.

The Conservative Party is to announce today that a by-election will be held at Uxbridge, Middlesex, on July 31. The Tory-held seat became vacant on the death of Sir Michael Shersby, who held it with a majority of 724 but died soon afterwards.

The timing is seen at Westminster as acknowledgement by the Tories that the Labour honeymoon has some time to run. The plan had been to delay the contest until September, in the hope that the Conservatives might have recovered enough by then to give themselves a springboard to the annual conference.

But senior Tories now believe it would be a risk to delay. If the seat were to be lost on July 31, the impact would be less severe than it would be nearer the conference.

The Tory candidate is John Randall, a local businessman. Labour is putting up Andrew Stanger, a barrister.

Nolan proposes jail for abuse of public position

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

MINISTERS, civil servants, police, magistrates and judges could face jail or a fine if they seek advantage from their public position, Lord Nolan, the public standards watchdog, proposed yesterday. The rule would also apply to any person on a public body or quango.

In a consultation paper published to coincide with his Report on Standards in Local Government, Lord Nolan proposed a new criminal offence called misuse of public office.

He called for debate on whether the offence should also apply to privatised companies, such as public utilities, and also to bodies such as grant maintained schools, training and enterprise councils, housing associations and further and higher education institutions.

The new offence is intended to replace the current penalty of surcharging local government members and officials, but would have a direct impact on Whitehall and 40,000 members — many volunteers — who serve on some 1,100 quangos. It also aims to deal

not just with cases of serious financial irregularity but could also apply to decisions deemed unlawful or doubtful.

On a personal basis it might apply to someone who had taken a publicly-owned car for their own use, or who was involved in decisions which brought advantage to themselves, their family or their business. It might also apply to decisions taken in malice or in cases of gross negligence.

But the paper adds: "Such negligence would need to be defined to avoid conviction for a momentary lack of judgment."

Lord Nolan said yesterday he hoped the new offence would be part of a package of anti-sleaze measures. Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, has already proposed an offence of corruption with up to seven years in jail for people in the public or private sector. MPs and peers are also reviewing the whole area of Parliamentary privilege.

Lord Nolan, Chairman of the Committee on Standards in Public Life, hopes the new law would not discourage

people from taking positions in public life and believes it will strengthen their role.

He believes the new offence should be operated so that wrongdoers could be brought before magistrates' courts or stand trial before a judge and jury depending on the gravity of the allegations.

The district auditor is expected to carry out investigations on any financial losses, and the police would investigate any other matter. Any decision to prosecute would be taken by the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Lord Nolan said at a press conference in Westminster yesterday: "We really felt there was a serious gap in the law. Surcharge in the past was only applicable to councils and we really believe it should apply across the board."

He joked that his committee was particularly anxious that the new offence should apply to judges and said: "It will produce a much fairer law and the penalty will be tailored to the offence."

Peter Riddell, page 10

Nato agrees to new members

Nato leaders have agreed to invite Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic to join the alliance in time for its fiftieth anniversary in April 1999.

The decision followed a day of fraught negotiations at the Nato summit in Madrid, during which President Chirac of France had tried to include Romania and Slovenia in the first wave of new member states from Central and Eastern Europe. A determined stand against an expansion of five countries was mounted by President Clinton and Tony Blair. Page 13

Robbery motive in double killing

Josie Russell, the girl left for dead by the killer of her mother and sister, has for the first time given a detailed account of the attack.

Today is the anniversary of the double murder near Canterbury and police revealed yesterday that robbery was the motive. The attacker, armed with a hammer, demanded money as Josie's mother pleaded for their lives. Police said 100 suspects would be subjected to DNA tests to see if they provided a match with a hair found at the crime scene. Page 3

Oh David, it's beautiful... one of the best I ever had!

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Lords on shaky ground over Dome that's not a dome

Thunder shook the Palace of Westminster yesterday afternoon as the Lord Elton rose in his place for Question 3: "To ask Her Majesty's Government how they will ensure that it will be clear to all those visiting the projected Millennium Dome that it was built to commemorate the anniversary of the birth of Jesus Christ."

Nobody does these things better than their Lordships. The Archbishop of Canterbury had looked in to hear the answer, which was discouraging and came from Lord McIntosh of Haringey, speaking for the Government, but not — as he made clear — for the Church of England. The object of millennium celebrations would be, he said, "spiritual and physical renewal". He did not mention anyone's birthday but added (rather limply, some of their Lordships thought) that the occasion was significant "both for Christians and for anyone who measures time by the Gregorian calendar".

Hmm. This was less than ringing. Lord Elton reminded the House that all a rather Orwellian-sounding "Minister without Portfolio" (Peter Mandelson) had said was that the millennium was "a chance for Britain to make a big statement about itself". It would be, Mandelson had said, "a reaffirmation of faith in the nation's future". But what about the rock on which that faith was founded, asked Lord Elton: the Church?

The Archbishop of Canterbury rose. Anyone hopeful that an archbishop might use

such an occasion for a robust restatement of the metaphysical claim upon which his gorgeous robes, palaces, garters, mitre, dignity, salary and all the trappings of his office depend, is out of touch with the modern Church of England. Dr Carey said he was most appreciative of this Government's recognition of the

Church's desire to be involved. Would that apply inside the Dome, too? Thanking "the Most Reverend Primate", Lord McIntosh weakened his commitment further, adding that others too would be involved but that "spiritual renewal" included Christians. This was most reassuring. And too much for

Lord Longford. Spluttering to his feet, he protested. This was "a Christian country, the millennium should be approached in that spirit". Lord St John of Fawsley joined the sceptics: "What exactly is going to be inside this Dome?" It was "not a dome at all" in the sense that "St Paul's, St Peter's and St Sofia's domes" were domes. It was, announced Lord St John, "a sort of marquee, tent or wigwag". Peers giggled. Lord McIntosh, feebler by the minute, conceded that the

Dome was not a dome. And, as to what was in it, that "is for the millennium company to decide". But he understood there was the "possibility" of including a chapel. A chapel? There is no pleasing all of their Lordships all of the time. Now Lord Taylor of Gryfe complained. "Is it not inconsistent for Christian celebrations to be financed by the proceeds of gambling?" Lotteries, said Lord Sefton, used to be anathema to the Church. The wretched Lord McIntosh mumbled something about

Camelot raising £4 billion for good causes. For the Conservatives, Lord Inglewood demanded an assurance that the millennium celebration "will happen" and that it would be "as claimed" "the best on Earth". Lord McIntosh declined to answer on the grounds that he suspected a trap. Lord Elton returned to the fray. What did ministers mean by talking of the future? The future began 2,000 years ago. To this came no response from Her Majesty's Government.



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Ministers knew Drumcree 'game plan' weeks ago

By NICHOLAS WATT AND AUDREY MAGEE

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, faced a barrage of criticism from nationalists yesterday after a leaked Government memo showed that ministers had resigned themselves weeks ago to forcing the Drumcree parade through a Catholic area.

As republican violence shows no signs of abating, John Hume, the SDLP leader, said that the document had seriously damaged the Government's relations with nationalists.

Yesterday afternoon a gang burnt out the 3.00pm Dublin to Belfast train at Newry, Co Down, soon after it had crossed the border into Northern Ireland — the second train to be destroyed this week. Six masked men claiming to be from the IRA boarded the train at the station and ordered passengers to leave.



Mowlam sought solution until very last moment

They then smashed windows before setting the train alight with petrol bombs. The gang also claimed that they had left a bomb on board.

The violence and the fallout from Drumcree overshadowed the first meeting of the multi-party talks at Stormont yesterday. During an acrimonious meeting at Stormont, Mr Hume castigated Dr Mowlam over the Government's handling of Drumcree and the leaked memo. Dr Mowlam has launched an inquiry into the leak.

The Northern Ireland Office memo showed that Dr Mowlam and her senior officials recognised as long ago as June 20 that the security forces would have to force the Orange Order march down the mainly Catholic Garvaghy Road. The document, marked confidential and referred to as the "game plan", said that a controlled parade would be the "least worst outcome".

Dr Mowlam said yesterday: "I worked until the last possible moment along with others to achieve a peaceful accommodation. As the document said, the chief constable had not taken the decision and he did not do so until the night before the march. All feasible options were genuinely under consideration until the very last moment."

Ray Burke, the Irish Foreign Minister, relayed Dublin's concerns about the parade during a meeting with Dr Mowlam. Irish government sources said that Dublin's criticisms in public were deliberately soft because ministers believed that Dr Mowlam was a force for good.

The nine political parties at yesterday's Stormont talks agreed that they should resolve the decommissioning of arms issue by July 23. There is little likelihood that they will reach agreement.

Four operators have started to abandon Northern Ireland and holidaymakers are cancelling bookings because of the violence of recent days. The Northern Ireland Tourist Board said yesterday that a German and an American company had cancelled coach tours and diverted to Co Donegal in the Irish Republic.

Loyalists display their weapons

By NICHOLAS WATT
CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

LOYALISTS sent a blunt message that their ceasefire has ended in all but name when a group of masked men brandished automatic weapons on a Belfast street.

Acting with the consent of the Combined Loyalist Military Command, which is supposedly observing a ceasefire, the terrorists staged the publicity stunt hours after a Protestant terrorist blew himself up. Dressed in jeans and sports shoes, the terrorists waved two AK47 automatic rifles, an Uz submachine gun, an SARO rifle and a Heckler and Kuch rifle in the Woodvale area of north Bel-

fast. Drawn from the Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force, which form the loyalist command, they walked up and down a road for about five minutes at about 10.30pm on Monday. They told a reporter from Ulster Television they were defending the Protestant community from an upsurge in republican violence, then disappeared down a side street.

The stunt was designed to boost morale among headline loyalists after a notorious member of the UDA killed himself as he attempted to defuse a bomb. Brian Morton, 34, died instantly when the device exploded in a field behind a loyalist housing estate in the Dunmurry area of south Belfast on Monday.



Lisa Potts enjoying a fairground ride yesterday with one of the young pupils

Lisa Potts's last school trip

LISA POTTS, the nursery worker who shielded her class of infants from a machete attacker, said yesterday that she feared her continued presence at the school was a reminder to the children of the attack. On the first anniversary of the day Horriet Campbell went berserk outside St Luke's Infant School in Blakenhall,

Wolverhampton, Miss Potts, 22, set out on her final school trip, to Alton Towers, with the children. She is expected to leave her job at the end of this term. "To them I'm no longer the nursery nurse who looked after them and played with the water with them," she said. "Now they only say 'Miss Potts, where's the man?' when they see me."

September launch for sex offenders' register

By RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE national sex offenders' register that will enable police to track paedophiles around the country is to start operating in September.

Thousands of offenders currently serving prison sentences for sexual offences will have their names put on the police computer that will eventually form the national database.

The launch date of September 1 was disclosed to the Commons as the Government

made clear that it plans to introduce an indeterminate sentence for paedophiles. Child sex offenders thus sentenced would only be released if the Parole Board considered it was safe. Cases would be reviewed every two years.

As offenders are convicted, their last known address will go on the register and when they leave jail the new address will also be logged. Home Office figures show that there are an estimated 110,000 convicted paedophiles in England and Wales though, apart from those serving jail terms, the

register will not operate retrospectively.

The database will come into operation almost nine months after the Sex Offenders Act received Royal Assent. Under the Act anyone jailed for more than 30 months for a sex offence will be on the register for life; jailed for six to 30 months for ten years; jailed for less than six months for seven years and for a non-custodial sentence for five years.

Offences covered by the new law include rape, intercourse with a girl under 13 and indecent assault.

Defence chiefs back Eurofighter project

Senior defence officials yesterday launched a private campaign to secure the future of the £45 billion Eurofighter project. Days before a crucial meeting of the German cabinet that could decide the project's future, they have taken the unusual step of disclosing their backing for the fighter and their delight with its performance.

With a total of 40,000 British jobs at stake, the Government is expected to reaffirm its commitment today to build up to 700 of the fighters, the first of which are due to come into service in about four years. Britain's share of the bill, for at least 232 aircraft, is estimated at more than £15 billion.

PC on murder charge

A former royal protection officer was charged with the murder of his wife, who was found stabbed to death at a nursing home six months ago. PC Michael Coulton, 52, is due to appear at Bracknell Forest Magistrates' Court today. The body of his wife Patricia, 52, was found in her car at the Lynwood Nursing Home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, on January 12. Five days later her husband was arrested and charged with firearms offences at his home in Woking.

Briton questioned

A British nurse who was born in France has been ordered to prove that he did not dodge French national service. Phillipe Majoleit, 28, is on a camping holiday in Biarritz with his British fiancée and her son. Mr Majoleit has been told that he must report to the French Embassy in London. The case, the second of its kind in a month, was raised by Mr Majoleit's MP, Geoffrey Clifton-Brown, in the Commons.

Bosnia soldiers killed

Two British soldiers serving with the NATO-led peace force in Bosnia died when their diesel tanker veered off a road and fell down a ravine. Privates Marc Simmonds, 19, of Colchester, Gloucestershire, and Stuart Wilson, 20, of Lymington, Hampshire, both from the Royal Logistic Corps, died near the town of Kljuc, northwestern Bosnia. No other vehicles were involved. The Military Police has opened an investigation into the incident.

Robbers admit hold-up

Two masked robbers who held up a packed commuter train with an imitation pistol and a machete changed their pleas to guilty at the Old Bailey yesterday. Anthony, 28, and Aaron Baxter, 20, admitted robbing passengers on a train from London to Dartford, Kent, in October. The brothers were betrayed by one of their girlfriends who informed police that they were responsible for the attack.

School reprimanded

A school "named and shamed" by the Government and facing closure if it does not improve has been ordered to stop extolling its teaching standards. The Advertising Standards Authority ruled that Ashburton High School, in Croydon, south London, could bill itself as "a school to be proud of" in local newspaper advertisements but not claim that it offered "teaching to match individual needs at all levels".

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BA perks threat

Continued from page 1

cabin staff reported sick yesterday in what BA saw as a sign that many Bansa members were against the stoppage. On an average day, about 120 staff call in sick. The airline also said that an increasing number of TGWU members had registered their intention to work normally today.

The high sick roll meant that 30 flights were cancelled yesterday, but the airline has increased its estimate of the number of services that will take off today. It now expects to run about a third of its short-haul and European services to and from Heathrow, half of its intercontinental flights from Heathrow and a third of its intercontinental flights from Gatwick.

Passengers who arrive at the airport to find their flight has been cancelled will be

given meal vouchers and phone cards while staff try to book them on other airlines or on Eurostar. Check-in desks and lounges will be operating normally and BA staff will be on duty on the Eurostar platform at Waterloo.

The airline has booked more than 3,000 hotel rooms near the airports for passengers who cannot get an alternative flight today and for non-strikers. Other employees will be collected by coach or taxi. Strike-breakers will not be required to wear uniforms to avoid identification by pickets, and security staff will patrol employees' car parks.

BA also intends to video the picket lines, which the TGWU has said will become parties with strikers invited to bring their families along.

Advertisement, page 8
John Monks, page 18

WHO'S WHO IN THE STRIKE

Bob Ayling: Chief Executive of British Airways, aged 52. Since taking over as chief executive from Sir Colin Marshall at the beginning of last year he has introduced a series of cost cutting measures with the cold eye of a lawyer and a former senior civil servant. Joined the Department of Trade in 1973. His talent was quickly spotted by Lord King and in 1985 he was appointed legal director. Later he also became company secretary.

Mike Street: Director of Operations. Now 49 he joined the airline in 1963 as a teenage apprentice and worked his way up to be head of the whole flying programme. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before returning to Heathrow and appointed director of operations in December 1995. Mr Street is now responsible for a £2.7 billion budget and for flight

crew, worldwide fuel purchase, logistics management and properties worldwide.

Bill Morris: General Secretary of the TGWU, aged 38. One of Labour and the TUC's senior figures and Britain's first black union leader. The Labour leadership has warmed to him as one of the most helpful of the big union leaders.

George Ryde: TGWU's national aviation secretary and its chief negotiator in the BA dispute. Aged 49, the former London dustman in his youth played in a pop group called the Deerstalkers, who took in 1962 a version of the old Coasters' hit, Little Egypt into the charts. Respected by BA, he fought unsuccessfully to stop the breakaway Cabin Crew 89 union from forming. He is well regarded by the leadership as the head of one of the few sections where membership is rising.

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Josie tells how killer demanded money

Police say motive for hammer deaths was robbery or bizarre fantasy

By Lin Jenkins

JOSIE RUSSELL, who was left for dead in the brutal assault which killed her mother and younger sister a year ago, has now been able to tell police that the attack may have started as an attempted robbery.

Her painstaking recovery from the brain damage she suffered has allowed her to describe how the attacker demanded money. Her mother, Lin, 45, pleaded for their lives, before she, Josie's sister Megan, 6, and the family dog were repeatedly bludgeoned with a hammer in woods near their home at Chillenden, Kent.

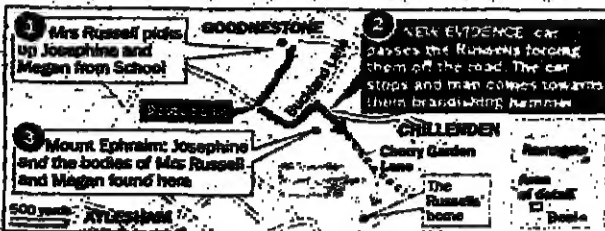
Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, leading the inquiry, yesterday gave what he described as a "sanitized" version of the account given in recent weeks during interviews with specially trained officers. "She had not long got into the lane when a car passed her from behind. They continued walking. As they rounded a bend, the car was in front of them. Josie thought it was a redish colour.

"As they approached the car, the man removed a hammer from the rear parcel shelf. He walked over to Lin and the children, and said 'Give me your money' and 'I want your money'."

"Lin said 'No'. She did not have any on her, anyway. He



Lin Russell and Megan, who were bludgeoned to death. Josie heard the attack on her mother



repeated his demand for money, and Lin said, 'I will go home and get some. I don't live far away.' The man began his murderous attack. Lin shouted, 'Please don't hurt us.' She shouted to Josie to run, and Josie ran off towards a nearby house, the only house, which was unfortunately empty. The man chased her, grabbed her, and brought her back. The family was ordered into a glade and tied with a ripped-up towel. Josie almost certainly heard her mother's injuries being inflicted on her. Thank God she did not see it.

"The man actually asked Josie if her bindings were too tight. He began searching through the lunchboxes, which we know had nothing

in them. Lin was hit again. The man then does not speak any more. She did not see her sister, Megan, being hit by the hammer, or Lucy, the dog, but she saw an awful lot. She has described someone similar to that we have in the E-fit.

"What Josie has told us is pretty traumatic. It has massively helped our inquiry, but I have mixed emotions, because Josie had to live through that — perhaps it was better that she had no memory of it."

The account was pieced together first by using models and pictures, and then, as Josie regained speech, in halting words, since May.

Mr Stevens said her account suggests the man might have been a robber — "or it could be that money was a deception, a deceitful motive for dialogue. Perhaps it was instead of, 'I want to murder you.' It could still be a person who had an awful, bizarre fantasy which became reality this day."

Police plan to resume interviewing Josie in a fortnight, but over the anniversary of the deaths will leave her with her father, Shaun Russell, 46, who has moved with Josie from Kent to North Wales. He said that his daughter would spend anniversary of the murders at school as usual.

"She wants to walk home from school and I won't let her," Mr Russell said. "I don't want to tell her. There is a murderer out there who might



Josie Russell on the anniversary of the murders. Her father said: "She has given me cause for carrying on"

still attack you'. It is still a struggle to argue with her about things like that. But there is someone out there who could harm her. He and his daughter who are not planning to mark the anniversary in any special way, do not make a special event of Lin and Megan's birthdays.

"We are not going to be indulging in any morbid ceremony. I am not going to put on a black tie or anything like that. There are plenty of times you are reminded about it."

"On Sunday morning I was at the grave. It is still like a dream to me to have to look at the names of my wife and daughter on it — such young people."

Mr Russell, a botanist, who has just completed a contract at Kent University, will spend some of the anniversary preparing to find a job. He said his dark despair in the days after the murders were removed only by Josie's needs. "She is a normal, wild, strong-minded little girl. The person I am looking after has given me cause for carrying on."

New genetic checks narrow the search

By Lin Jenkins

ONE hundred suspects are to undergo a new type of genetic test to discover whether they murdered Lin and Megan Russell a year ago.

Tests developed specifically for the murder inquiry have revealed a DNA profile of the suspected killer, from hair found at the murder scene. The tests can detect mitochondrial DNA in dead hair where previously a living cell was required. Each gene takes three weeks to produce results and only a few can be conducted at a time.

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens, who is leading the inquiry, said the test, devised by Dr Janet Thompson, head of the Forensic Science Service, was a breakthrough. "We have a profile so we have something to compare suspects with. Unfortunately the test has to be carried out on dead hair and cannot be checked against the DNA database."

The first 100 to be tested will be selected from the 1,000 people already interviewed — a group which "very possibly" includes the killer, he said.

Little forensic evidence had been found because the killer was clever and removed items from the murder scene. A child's swimming towel he had torn into strips to gag and blind the three, had been removed and dumped in a hedge near by. The murder weapon has not been found.

"I am sure that this offender was forensicly aware. This



E-fit image of the man police want to interview

International intelligence systems have been used to make links with similar crimes.

One woman, of similar age to Mrs Russell, with two young children and a dog, had come forward only this year to recount an incident last June nine days before the murders.

She had been frightened by a stranger while out for a walk at Bentshanger, about four miles from the murder scene. A car drove past her, stopped, then a man holding a carrier bag got out. "He looked very threateningly towards the lady. She was terrified and turned on her heels to walk away. He turned away and got back in the car," Mr Stevens said.

The man was in his early thirties, of medium build, with blond hair and drove a beige car, probably an old, small BMW with a GB sticker.

Mr Stevens said he also still wanted to trace a man who almost collided with a woman motorist, while driving from the direction of the murder scene. Her description was used for the E-fit released by police. "There is a good chance this is a good likeness to our murderer," he said. The light-coloured car he was driving had rear mudflaps and an anti-static strip.

Police have also not found the man seen running across the road near the scene at about the time of the killings or the man seen stuffing what was later found to be a bloodstained towel into a hedge near by.

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Electronic pet may make monster out of owners

By Anjana Arora

AFTER the Tamagotchi, the portable electronic toy that has to be "fed" and "nurtured" to survive, the next playground fad will be aimed at teenage boys: The Digital Monster. The toy, which is a virtual dinosaur, will be able to send their pets into combat. The monsters will have to be fed "protein" as they grow. The square, hand-held units can be linked together and animals can be moved from one unit to another to engage in battle. The welfare of the creatures will depend on whether they are given work outs and training sessions before each bout, how well they are treated after injuries and how many fights they win.

Digital Monster will be launched by the Bandai Corporation, makers of Tamagotchi, in Japan later this year. Enthusiasm in Britain will be able to acquire their own dinosaurs towards the end of the year. It is expected to retail at the same price as a Tamagotchi (£10 to £14). Tamagotchi, meaning "lov-

able egg" in Japanese, was launched two months ago in Britain, and is still a sell-out. Two jumbo jets full of the toys arrive in London from Tokyo every week. The egg hatches to reveal a small chick, and owners have to attend to its every need. Diligent carers, who carry the creatures around on a pendant, are rewarded with appreciative squeaks, and their pet reaches adulthood and then goes to heaven. Unhappy animals snarl and squeal at their



Aimed squarely at boys: the Digital Monster

keepers. The current record lifespan for a Tamagotchi is 32 days. It is estimated that 20 million people in Japan — one in six of the population — own one.

However, their popularity has been viewed with caution. Teachers have complained that the animals, which bleep if they require attention, disrupt classes. Psychologists have said that some children can be traumatised by the "death" of their electronic animals. There are even said to be some children who derive disturbing pleasure from inflicting long, lingering deaths on their charges.

Tamagotchi could also face a threat from the 10 Micro Pet, a British cyber puppy that boasts a memory chip twice as large. Its Swindon-based manufacturer, Bluebird Toys, said the pocket-sized electronic puppy would teach their owners more traditional petcare skills, largely because of its ability to foul the carpet if left unattended. It also can sing, howl, do tricks, change facial expression, mate, and, if unhappy, run away.

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Drama schools are booed for failing to teach Shakespeare

BRICKBATS were thrown at drama schools yesterday for failing to train young actors in Shakespeare and classical dramatists. The schools were accused of ignoring speech and literature and leaning too heavily towards television.

Adrian Noble, the artistic director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, said the new generation of drama graduates did not match such actors as Kenneth Branagh, Mark Rylance, Ralph Fiennes and Alex Jennings, whose "gift with words" he compared with the work of Laurence Olivier, Ralph Richardson and Alec Guinness.

Mr Noble, whose company is auditioning for *Twelfth Night*, said that acting suffered without grounding in classical drama. He was dismayed at the performances of some younger actors.

Through classical drama actors could relate poetic language to thought and meaning. "It comes down to the craft, a love of language" — classical theatre equipped actors to explore "the soul, emotions and terrors".

Opening his copy of *Twelfth Night* at one of its most famous lines, "If music be the food of love, play on", he spoke of shape and form, and how Shakespeare wrote in verse to help the actors to convey meaning. Such understanding nourished the ear as well as the eye of the audience.

Young actors show lack of grounding in classics, Dalya Alberge reports



Classic acts: Olivier and Richardson

"There is a tendency in drama schools to teach behaviour rather than acting," he said. "If you play King Lear or Viola, you're required to bring to bear upon it an imagination, a quality of passion and breadth of passion that is beyond behaviour." Drama school was all the more important because of the demise of repertory theatres where actors once learnt their trade.

Mr Noble's views were echoed by other leading directors. Jonathan Miller said: "Over the years, because of the success of performance art, language has somehow be-

come perceived as trivial and that what matters is the experience of the body. There has been a rejection of literature." Commenting on diction, he added: "People don't pronounce and clarify. That's regarded as somehow elitist, the possession of the middle classes."

John Barton, an honorary associate director of the RSC, who is working on another *Twelfth Night* series for television, said: "It's not a British problem. They are worried about the same thing in America, where I do a lot of Shakespeare workshops. They

also complain that they cannot get a classical training.

"Good young actors come to Stratford and are terrified of Shakespeare because they've not had the grounding. Very few actors can pick up a Shakespeare play and handle it straight away." But training was not wholly to blame, Mr Barton said. Actors were no longer stretched by appearing in large theatres, as most were working in television and small theatres.

"I remember 30 years ago, people would project and have better diction. Naturally, in an increasingly visual culture, that doesn't make the same linguistic demands."

Closely Berry, voice director of the RSC, expressed sympathy for drama schools, which had to train actors to earn a living. Training must prepare them for television and musicals as well as theatre.

Professor Stanley Wells, director of the Shakespeare Institute at Birmingham University, said: "Quite often, I feel deficiencies in speaking, deficiencies in actual understanding. I certainly found this once or twice in the National's *Lear*. People were accenting the wrong words."

Sir John Gielgud said he was fortunate to have played in Shakespeare and other writing with "fine language". "I'd always appreciated it and read a great deal." Diction



Deserving applause: London children taking a bow for a performance of *Julius Caesar* at the Globe Theatre

was "terribly important", he said, lamenting the damage done by microphones.

Mr Noble added: "The acid test is whether or not actors are in command of the form and own the language. Unless they have, they haven't cracked it."

Professor Bob Fowler, principal of the Central School of Speech and Drama, whose graduates have included Lord Olivier, Dame Judi Dench

and Vanessa Redgrave, said that British theatre training was as good as any in the world, but students did not leave as fully-fledged actors: "Like a driving test, once the students are on the road, it's up to the directors to take on the job."

Drama schools were let down by the education system, Professor Fowler said. "Thirty years ago, students came with a vocabulary of Shakespeare

from school. They knew at least two Shakespeare plays. That school education has gone. We have to start on a remedial level."

It was not just a question of more emphasis on classical training: "When they go for auditions, the majority are asked to sing, dance and move. They go into television and have to be flexible. We have to bear in mind these kids want a job. There's not

enough Shakespeare around." He said that Sir Cameron Mackintosh, another ex-Central student, had founded the chair of theatre at Oxford, which has not been held by Shakespearean or classical scholars: "It's been held by Stephen Sondheim and Arthur Miller. That's the way the world is going."

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Drama, page 32

Drought blamed for rise in drinking water pollution

Nick Nuttall reports on the nation's liquid assets

DROUGHT has been blamed for an increase in incidents of foul drinking water. Bacterial contamination of the mains network is also on the rise with the warm weather suspected of allowing the bacteria to thrive.

Overall, the quality of the nation's drinking water, including toxic metals and pesticides, continues to improve, a Drinking Water Inspectorate report said yesterday. Compared to the rest of Europe, British drinking water is among the cleanest, the inspectorate said.

However, Michael Rouse, the chief inspector, said there was concern over the way water companies were managing their distribution net-

works. Their efforts to maintain pressure and keep drinking water circulating in some areas during the past three years of drought was causing new difficulties in maintaining high standards. Underground and river resources, which had previously been judged too contaminated to consider, are being brought into use to supplement dwindling resources.

Water companies are involved in a range of new activities which are leading to sediments in mains and local pipes, in some cases decades old, being flushed up into household taps. These actions,

aimed at tackling the drought, include experimenting with pressures and altering, and in some cases reversing, flows in mains and other supply pipes. Mr Rouse said that the new management tactics had been accompanied by a rise in cases of discoloured water and water that smells different. Water companies were partly to blame, and the inspectorate was investigating, he said.

"We will prosecute water companies if they make mistakes and supply discoloured water," he said. "I am asking water companies involved to consider urgently how they might improve the operation of their distribution systems."

Mr Rouse said that the inspectorate had urged water companies to step up disinfection of supplies when pressures drop or bursts occur. Some experts believe that, during the current drought, the water companies are dropping pressures to stop water escaping from tiny leaks to conserve supplies. It is feared, however, that this will allow soil organisms, including the stomach parasite cryptosporidium, to enter the mains network. Figures for 1996, released yesterday, show that the num-

ber of supply zones, or areas of up to 50,000 people, where the water did not comply with smell, discolouration or basic bacterial standards, rose when compared with 1994. There are 2,419 supply zones in England and Wales. The number not complying with coliforms, bacterial indicators, almost trebled from 0.5 per cent to 1.2 per cent, or an increase from 120 zones falling to 290.

The number not complying with odour rose from 0.7 per cent, or 169 zones, to 2.9 per cent, or 702 zones. Breaches of lead, pesticide, nitrate and many other pollutants continue to fall.

The inspectorate also announced the re-establishment of an expert group to look at cryptosporidium in supplies. The move comes after a rise in cases, including a recent outbreak in an area served by Three Valleys Water in north London and Hertfordshire.

The minute parasite is endemic in farm and other animals and causes diarrhoea in humans. It can be transmitted by water supplies and current treatment processes cannot remove or deactivate it completely.



Prêt à porter: a multicoloured tunic featured in the sale

Clothes auction offers glimpse of Street fashion

By JOANNA BALE

FOLLOWING hot on the heels of Diana, Princess of Wales, the broadcaster Janet Street-Porter is to auction her wardrobe at Christie's. There may not be the kudos of a royal connection, but the Princess's sale featured neither a blouse with printed pink teddy bears nor a fluorescent pink mini-dress.

The auction includes more than 60 items, worth £6,000, which date from the early 1950s to the late 1980s and includes designs by Zandra Rhodes, Vivienne Westwood and Ossie Clark.

While the Princess of Wales's dress size fluctuated from 8 to 12 during her unhappy marriage, Ms Street-Porter has remained a stick-thin size 10, according to Christie's.

Among the most dazzling creations are a turquoise silk blouse and wrap-over skirt printed with bold African-inspired pink and red flowers. It was made by Zandra Rhodes for Ms Street-Porter to wear at Elton John's wedding to Renate Blauel in 1984. Its value is estimated at anywhere between £25 and £200. The same designer's vivid

pink jersey top and trousers, worn by Ms Street-Porter in 1976 when she married the journalist Anthony Elliott, the second of her four husbands, was inspired by Elizabethan costume and is estimated to be worth £200 to £300.

The sale also includes a 1950s multicoloured sequinned and beaded tunic with a "comedy tragedy design" bought in Hollywood, and a "beach outfit" which includes a minidress, belt and bonnet of red and blue squares.

Also by Zandra Rhodes and dating from 1965-67, is a fluorescent pink mini-dress in "Mr. Man and Lightbulb" print, a pair of high-waisted shorts of white cotton printed with lipsticks and a blouse with printed pink teddy bears. Jill Potterton of Christie's said: "She was 50 quite recently and I think she wanted to have a big clear-out. She sold her collection of fans recently to finance a new kitchen at her home in east London. I think she will use the money from this auction for something similar."

The collection will be sold in London in September.

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Marchers take their fight for field sports to heart of London

TENS of thousands of demonstrators are to converge on Hyde Park in central London tomorrow in the biggest show of support for hunting and field sports ever seen.

Hunting enthusiasts are hoping the Countryside Rally will send a strong message to Downing Street about the resentment felt by country dwellers at the perceived threat to their way of life from an intolerant and ignorant urban majority.

A Private Member's Bill to outlaw hunting with hounds, which was tabled last month by the Labour MP Michael Foster, is scheduled for a second reading in the Commons on November 28, and is almost certain to receive the backing of a majority of MPs.

Defenders of country sports are hoping that the Bill will run into trouble in the House of Lords and the committee stages of its passage through Parliament and eventually

Michael Hornsby previews plans by hunt enthusiasts for a mass rally

run out of time. Whether the Bill succeeds is likely to depend on the legislative importance attached to it by the Labour leadership.

A delegation of those attending the rally will travel in a double-decker bus to deliver a petition to Downing Street. This is expected to remind Tony Blair of the wish he expressed during the general election to represent the whole country and not just sectional interests. A rival animal welfare petition, protesting against the killing of wildlife for entertainment and signed by 1.5 million people, is to be delivered on the same day by another backbench Labour MP, Kerry Pollard.

The rally will open at 11am with a speech by Robin Hanbury-Tenison, the explorer and Cornwall farmer who since 1995 has been chief executive of the British Field Sports Society, which is organising the protest.

On taking office, Mr Hanbury-Tenison said he saw the hunting of foxes and deer as "conservation culling". He added: "Of course, we are all opposed to gratuitous cruelty, but I would defend all the refined methods of country sports in Britain which have, over time, eliminated all elements of cruelty and are now the kindest and best way of maintaining the countryside."

Among other speakers will be Baroness Mallalieu, who heads Leave Country Sports Alone, a pressure group formed three years ago to represent the small but influential minority of Labour MPs and supporters openly opposed to a ban on hunting.

Many of the more than 300 hunts in Britain, as well as country estates and businesses, such as saddlers and livery stables, have given their employees the day off on Thursday so that they can attend the rally. Scotland and Wales and every county in England will be represented at the rally, their presence marked by balloons bearing their names.

Plans to stage various musical entertainments, including a concert of French hunting horns, have been abandoned because the Royal Parks Agency said this would turn the rally into an "event", for which the organisers would be charged much more.

The League Against Cruel Sports said yesterday it had instructed its followers to stay away from the rally. John Bryant, the league's chief spokesman, said: "The last thing we want is a punch-up."

Alan Coren, page 18



William Hague's fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, is persuaded to tickle a ferret on their visit to the Great Yorkshire Show at Harrogate yesterday

Hague defends country freedoms

Leader's backing will initiate pro-hunt campaign. James Landale reports

WILLIAM HAGUE will throw his support behind the thousands of country dwellers descending on London tomorrow for a mass rally in defence of their rural ways of life.

The Tory party leader will attend the demonstration in Hyde Park protesting against plans to ban hunting and other country sports. His decision to back the pro-hunting lobby means that the Tories will mount a strong campaign in Parliament against a Bill introduced by a Labour MP to ban hunting with hounds.

Although Mr Hague will be expressing his personal support and will give Tory MPs a free vote on hunting, he will urge them to join him in defending country freedoms.

A Conservative spokesman said that Mr Hague, who does not hunt, did not believe the issue was just about hunting but about defending basic freedoms. "His view is that you have to defend freedoms even if they are unpopular."

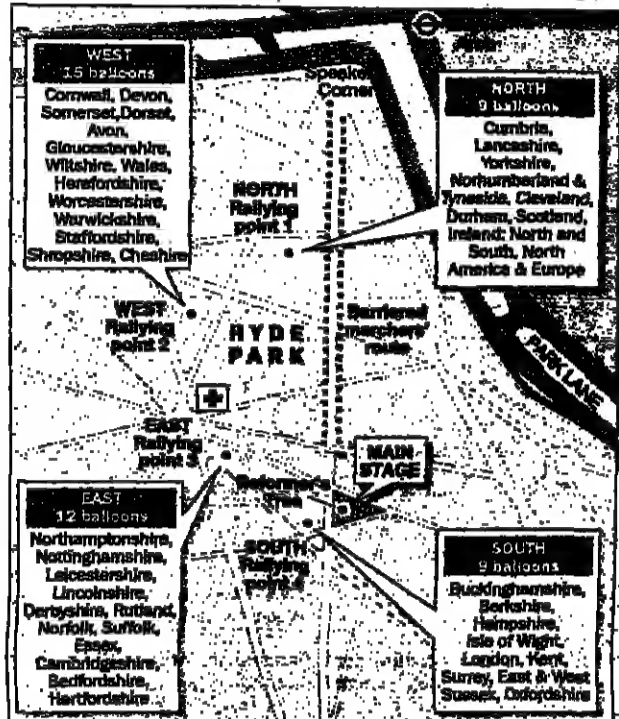
Although Mr Hague will not speak at the rally, other senior Tories, including Michael Heseltine, the former Deputy Prime Minister, will lend their voices to the campaign.

Janet George, a spokesman for the Countryside Alliance, said that it was delighted that Mr Hague was coming. "We would be equally delighted if Tony Blair were to come and give his support," she said.

As part of his campaign to

show his support for country matters, the Tory leader and his fiancée, Ffion Jenkins, yesterday tickled ferrets, patted other animals, and discussed country matters with visitors at the Great Yorkshire Show in Harrogate. Mr Hague, whose constituency is in Richmond, North Yorkshire, met hunt-men from the area and reaffirmed his support for hunting, saying it created jobs and helped con-

servation. The Government has given its tacit backing to a Private Member's Bill introduced by Michael Foster, Labour MP for Worcester, to ban hunting with hounds. The Bill, which will prohibit hunting foxes, deer, hare and mink, comes up for its second reading in November and is likely to be supported by most Labour MPs. However, the Bill will be fiercely opposed in the Lords.



Supporters converge by road, rail and air

CENTRAL London can expect severe congestion tomorrow as upwards of 80,000 people converge on Hyde Park for the rally in support of country sports (Michael Hornsby writes).

The British Field Sports Society, the rally organiser, says that at least 65,000 people will be brought to the capital in 910 coaches and 12 chartered trains. Thousands of others are

expected to make their own way.

Coaches will drop rally supporters at different points round the capital, including Wembley stadium, Ealing Common, Ears Court and the Victoria and Vauxhall coach parks. They will travel on by Underground. Around 140 coaches will stop in Hyde Park itself.

The chartered trains will take passengers to Paddington, King's

Cross, Euston and Liverpool Street stations. Supporters from Ireland and America will arrive by air, with a French party on Eurostar.

About 130 people who set off last month to march to London from points in Scotland, Cumbria, Wales and Devon will be picked up at a service station near South Mimms on the M25 and be taken by bus to Hyde Park. The police refused to

allow them to walk through London.

The rally, which runs from 11am to 2pm, will be held at a spot known as Reformer's Tree, on the avenue running south from Speaker's Corner, where early campaigners for public speech met in the 19th century.

Police have ordered that no placards or banners may be carried, but demonstrators will be allowed to wear T-shirts printed with slogans.



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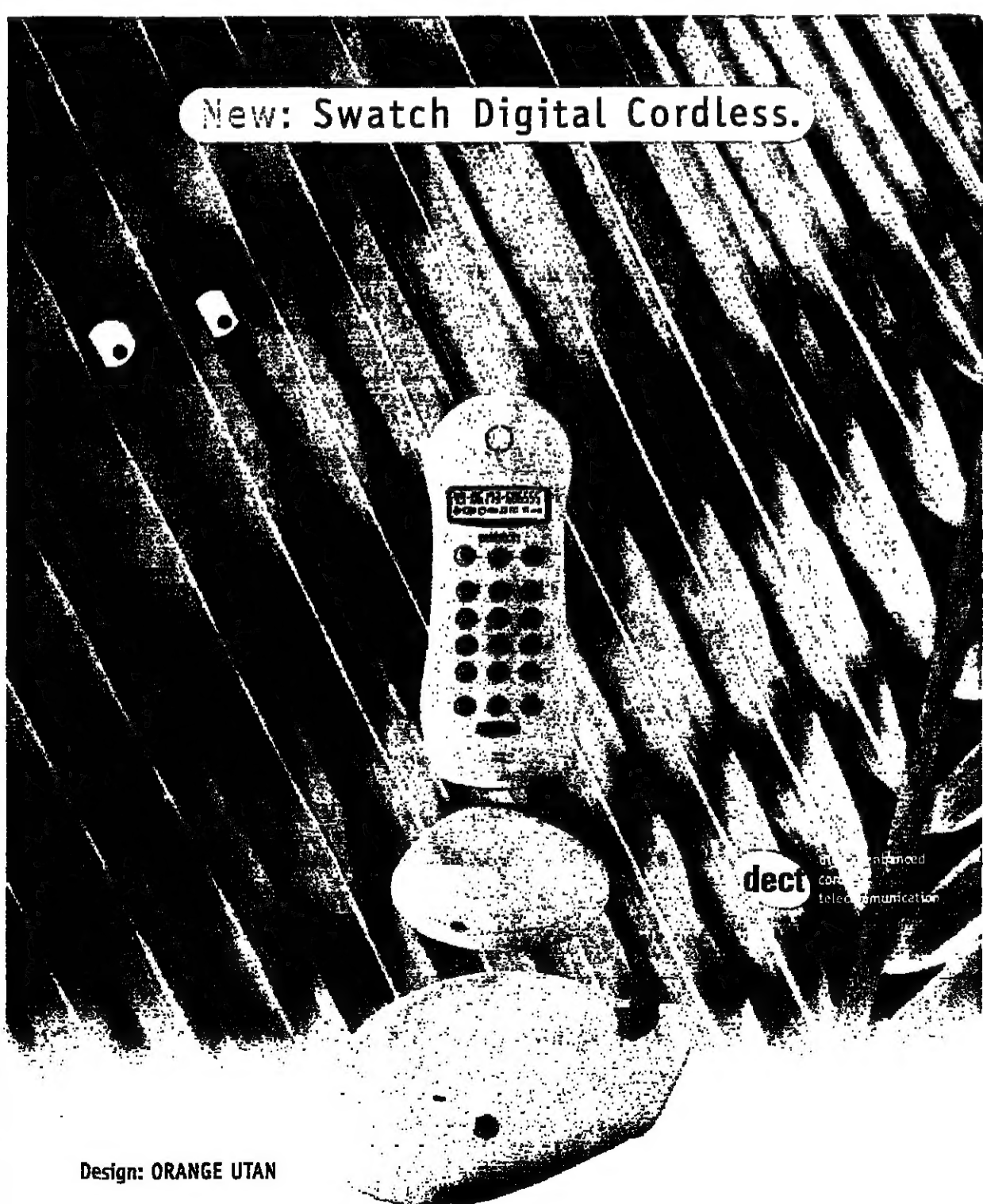
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- All domestic & European flights from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

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BA3000-3499	BA6200-6449	BA7600-7949	BA8300-8450	
BA4000-4199	BA6700-6749	BA8000-8199	BA8700-8839	

- The following specific flights to and from London will also operate as normal during this period:

London Heathrow Terminal 4				London Gatwick	
Miami	BA293/BA292	Tbilisi & Biskek	BA6711/BA6712	Dallas	BA2193/BA2192
Chicago	BA297/BA296	Alexandria & Damascus	BA6707/BA6708	Miami	BA2295/BA2294
New York	BA175/BA174	Dubai & Muscat	BA123/BA122	Houston	BA2225/BA2224
	BA179/BA176	Bahrain & Abu Dhabi	BA125/BA124	Pittsburgh	BA2199/BA2198
	BA001/BA004	Tokyo	BA005/BA006	Tampa	BA4517/BA4516
	BA003/BA002		BA007/BA008	Antigua & Grenada	BA2253/BA2252
Boston	BA215/BA214	Hong Kong	BA027/BA028	Barbados & St. Lucia	BA2255/BA2254
	BA213/BA212		BA029/BA030	Barbados	BA2257/BA2256
Los Angeles	BA269/BA268	Hong Kong & Taipei	BA025/BA026	Nassau & Grand Cayman	BA4505/BA4504
	BA279/BA278	Hong Kong & Manila	BA031/BA032	Buenos Aires	BA2267/BA2266
	BA283/BA282	Bangkok, Sydney & Melbourne	BA009/BA010	Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro	BA2245/BA2244
Johannesburg & Durban	BA055/BA054	Bangkok, Sydney & Brisbane	BA009/BA010	Nairobi & Entebbe	BA2069/BA2068
Johannesburg & Gaborone	BA055/BA054	Singapore & Perth	BA011/BA012	Nairobi & Dar Es Salaam	BA2069/BA2068
Johannesburg	BA057/BA056			Nairobi	BA2069/BA2068
Amman	BA6705/BA6706				
Beirut	BA6701/BA6702				
	BA6703/BA6702				
Damascus & Amman	BA6707/BA6708				
Singapore	BA015/BA016				
London Heathrow Terminal 1					
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Council must pay for autistic boy to attend special school in US

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

THE parents of a four-year-old autistic boy celebrated victory at the High Court yesterday when a judge ruled that their local education authority must pay for their son to attend a £30,000-a-year special school in America.

The decision secures James Finn's place at the Higashi School in Boston, Massachusetts. His parents had managed to pay for his education there for two terms through local fundraising, but Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council had refused to help when the couple's money ran out.

Yesterday Mr Justice Dyson ruled that the authority was obliged to continue paying the school fees as long as it considered the Higashi School the best place for the boy.

However, the judge also ruled that authorities had no obligation to name a specific school, meaning the chance of securing a place at Higashi is still unlikely for most parents.

Solihull council was appealing against a special educational needs tribunal ruling in February that named Boston Higashi as the appropriate school for James, from Shirley, Solihull, and said the local authority was under a duty to pay his fees.

At an earlier hearing Cherie Booth, QC, had told the judge



Noel and Julie Finn at the High Court yesterday

that the boy's parents, Noel and Julie, had secured him a place in January after raising funds through rallies, discos and dances. But their money was running out and James would shortly have to leave. Solihull council had refused to take up the funding, arguing that as the parents were already managing to keep their son at the school it was not obliged to become involved.

However, the judge said that was simplistic of the council, which was breaching its duty of care as it had agreed the school was the most suitable place for James. "It is unreasonable for the authority to seek to relieve itself of its statutory duties by relying on parents to raise finance in this way," he said.

After the ruling the council gave an undertaking to pay James's fees of £56,000 a year "indefinitely".

However, the ruling brought disappointment to two other families who had hoped the judge would overturn a refusal by the same special educational needs tribunal to name the Higashi as the most appropriate school for their three autistic boys.

Julie Richardson, from Solihull, the mother of Ben Simpson, 5, and Angela White, from Ealing, west London, who has twin sons, David and Simon, 7, both claimed the Higashi School offered the best chance of giving their children normal lives.

Yesterday Mr Justice Dyson said the councils were entitled to decide the Higashi was "inappropriate" for the boys and to make no specific decision as to which school the boys should attend. But he granted leave to appeal after agreeing the cases were of "general public importance".

In one case, he said the tribunal had been particularly concerned about aspects of the Higashi School after being told by an educational expert that it allowed "physical contact and shouting beyond anything which would be permitted in any UK school".

Rita Murray, secretary of the UK Boston Higashi School Parents' Association, said hopes that yesterday's case would provide clear guidance to help parents of autistic children had been dashed. While welcoming the success of the Finns, she said the judge had interpreted the provisions of the 1996 Education Act in a way which went against the wishes of parents and the best interests of their children.



James Finn will stay at the Higashi School in Boston after the ruling yesterday

Intensive therapy gives hope to children

HIGASHI schools expound a revolutionary philosophy in dealing with autistic children. The schools, whose title is derived from the Japanese word for hope, act on a principle called daily life therapy, which was pioneered in 1969 in Tokyo by Dr Kiyo Kitahara (Kathryn Knight writes).

The therapy is intensive and aims to encourage independence among those affected. It is based on the principle that self-awareness leaves the children less isolated and frightened.

Teachers at the two schools, in Boston and Tokyo, are uncompromising in their expectations of the pupils, who range in age from three to 22. They are also encouraged to run around and shout and scream to burn off excess energy. Both approaches are criticised by educationists.

So far 50 British families have educated their children at the Boston academy, and many are now in mainstream schools back in Britain with some educational support. Some were unable to talk or do anything for themselves now they can speak, operate a computer and feed and dress themselves.

Parents of the 25,000 autistic children in Britain are increasingly keen to send their offspring to the school. Last month David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said that he would support the establishment of a Higashi school in Britain.

Dementia drug 'too costly to prescribe'

By IAN MURRAY
MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE first drug to be licensed for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease is so expensive that many health authorities are not allowing doctors to prescribe it or are delaying making it available.

Six months after the Medicines Control Agency approved the drug, Aricept, only six health authorities have approved it, ten have advised doctors against the drug and the other 88 have yet to make a decision, a survey by the Alzheimer's Disease Society has found.

The drug has limited effectiveness but in the early stages of the disease can give a period of alleviation from the forgetfulness and dementia that typify the condition. "This gives sufferers an all-important window of opportunity when they and their families can prepare for the future," Simon Denegri, of the society, said.

However, the drug costs £1,200 a year for each patient, well above the average amount that most health authorities spend on treating patients with dementia. The health authorities that have refused to allow the drug to be prescribed have told the society that there is insufficient evidence to support its viability and cost-effectiveness.

The six health authorities allowing the drug to be prescribed are Merton, Gloucestershire, Southampton and South West Hampshire, Manchester, Northern Ireland Eastern and Isle of Man. Those who have refused to prescribe the drug are Worcester, Bradford, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Suffolk, Enfield, East Kent, Dyfed and Powys, North Wales and South Staffordshire.

Beware headache which strikes at sudden speed



EMMA FREECE, the 14-year-old whose personality and intelligence were her chance to interview leading politicians for the BBC, died suddenly from a brain haemorrhage recently.

As well as the sadness such a death induces, it will also cause a shudder of apprehension in all those who fear that their headaches are a warning of an impending stroke. They can be reassured: most headaches are the result of tension, problems with the neck, or migraine. Serious causes of headache are comparatively rare.

Dr Clifford Rose, the medical director of the London Neurological Centre and the Princess Margaret Migraine Clinic, says: "There are more than 100 causes of headache, differentiating between them is not always easy and often requires specialised knowledge."

Patients either with a persistent headache, particularly if it occurs every day, or one that comes on with lightning suddenness when they are normally headache-free, should always see their doctor. This is especially important if the headache is associated with fainting, nausea, convulsions, any eye symptoms or neck stiffness.

The common cause of a cerebral haemorrhage in a younger person, such as killed Emma, is usually the rupture of an aneurysm, the condition in which a length of cerebral artery has a weak wall so that it balloons out — rather like a weak spot on the inner tube of

a bicycle tyre. These weak patches are most liable to burst between the ages of 25 and 50. The aneurysm may have been present since childhood and there is often a family history of such problems.

In cases such as Emma's, the severe bleed which occurs in the rupture is accompanied by a headache of unimaginable intensity, often at the back of the head. It is the suddenness of onset which patients who recover always seem to remember.

The patient may feel sick, dizzy, suffer localised weakness or lose consciousness. Emma seems to have had all these symptoms. She had to lie down, developed a partial facial paralysis and then died peacefully.

Emma's history appears to have been similar to the classic ones described in every textbook, but not all cases have such clear-cut symptoms. Emma had had headaches over the past week and these had been attributed to tiredness, a common cause of tension headaches. In fact the early attacks were caused by leaking of blood before the aneurysm finally burst.

Although it is difficult to see an aneurysm on the standard scan, an angiography, in which the scan is focused on the blood vessels, will usually reveal them and they would certainly show up if they had been bleeding.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

Wine lovers declare vintage after winning back lost cases

By ROBIN YOUNG

WINE lovers who thought they had lost almost £2 million worth of top vintages yesterday won their claim to 5,000 remaining cases of wine after a six-year fight in the High Court.

When the long-established City company of Green's went bankrupt in April 1991 it was found that most of the highest-priced wines in storage for their customers had vanished.

Two directors of the company were subsequently jailed for theft but Green's customers, with their insurance invalidated, found that the company's liquidator was also denying their right to any of the wine left behind.

At a High Court hearing yesterday before Deputy

Judge Roger Kay, QC, an action group formed by some 90 Green's customers among more than 500 who laid claim to wines the company had been storing, finally won its claim to almost 5,000 cases.

Under the terms of the settlement all Green's customers able to document their ownership of wines will have to pay £27 plus VAT per case for storage and £13.82 per case as legal costs.

The recent boom in prices for fine wine means that the remaining stock is probably worth more than the £125 million estimated at the last valuation 2 years ago, and some customers will recoup a substantial part of their losses. Jocelyn Harris of the Durrington Corporation, who led the action group's fight,

said: "People who thought they had lost everything now have the chance to recoup at least part of their losses."

Among the wines stolen were large numbers of top burgundies from the 1985 vintage and leading clarets of the highly successful 1982, 1983, 1985, and 1986 vintages, some of which, such as Chateau Cheval Blanc 1982 and Chateau Margaux 1983, are now worth £4,500 a case.

The wines the investors have now recovered are principally lesser growths. One investor said after the hearing: "I had £14,000 worth of wine in 114 cases with Green's and originally wrote it off as a total loss. Now I calculate that the 33 cases of wines that I will be able to reclaim may be worth £12,000."

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Nolan urges shake-up of town hall regulation

Alexandra Frean on a review of the tangle of rules on councillors' conduct

LORD NOLAN has proposed a restructuring of the way local councillors' powers and influence are regulated. He called yesterday for the abolition of the surcharge system under which councillors and officers guilty of wrongdoing can be ordered to repay millions of pounds in restitution to the councils they represent.

Lord Nolan said that, although the public appeared to mistrust local councillors more than almost any other public officials, his committee of inquiry into standards in local government had found no evidence of widespread wrongdoing. He paid tribute to the "vast majority of councillors who observe high standards of conduct", but emphasised the need for a radical change in the ethical framework within which local government operates.

Each council should have a standards committee, with powers to suspend for up to three months councillors who had misbehaved in the course of their duties. A new local government tribunal should act as independent arbiter on councils' codes of conduct and to hear appeals from councillors unhappy with decisions taken by their standards committees.

In a move that was welcomed by Dame Shirley Porter, the former leader of Westminster council who was ordered last year to pay back to her council £5 million for her part in the "homes for votes" scandal, Lord Nolan criticised the surcharge system as "unsatisfactory".

Lord Nolan's Committee on Standards in Public Life concluded that the surcharge was both inflexible because it applied only to financial irregularity and that it was inconsistent because councillors and local government officers would face a bill of millions of pounds for activity that did not involve corruption. Few could afford to pay the fines anyway and no other public official faced such penalties.

The surcharge system was also wrong because it cast the District Auditor in the role of "prosecutor, judge and jury". Lord Nolan recommended that the surcharge be replaced by a new criminal offence of "misuse of public office", which would provide a statutory regime to deal with misconduct that does not entail bribery or corruption. In the interim, he recommended that the district auditor be allowed to refer cases of misconduct to the courts.

Dame Shirley, who is appealing against the surcharge imposed on her and five former colleagues, said: "The changes proposed vindicate our belief that Westminster councillors and officers were found to be at fault by a deeply flawed and unjust system."

The Nolan report called for new whistle-blowing procedures for local authority officers and councillors. It also highlighted two of the most sensitive areas of potential abuse of power by local councillors and officers, the planning system and the award of contracts to the private sector.

Noting that about a quarter of complaints against councils involved planning decisions, the committee was particularly critical of the system known as "planning gain", in which council's grant planning permission to developers who agree to provide community facilities in return.

The system was criticised both by developers and their opponents. Developers complained that it allowed them to be held to ransom by councils, and anti-development campaigners said it led to inappropriate planning permissions being granted solely because of embacements.

The Local Government Association welcomed the committee's findings, but said that the creation of a local government tribunal could be regarded as the replacement of one set of external watchdogs — the Audit Commission and the ombudsmen — with another set. "Responsibility for disciplinary matters should rest with individual local authorities," it said.

Lord Nolan presented his final report before returning to his duties as a law lord.

Lord Nolan, presenting his final report before returning to his duties as a law lord.

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Lord Nolan, presenting his final report before returning to his duties as a law lord

Cabinet's home rule plans start row over abortion

By Jill Sherman

THE Prime Minister has provoked a row over abortion rights with his decision to rule out any prospect of a Scottish parliament having the power to tighten the relevant law.

Tony Blair recently intervened in a Cabinet committee dispute on Scottish devolution by making clear that Westminster would retain responsibility for abortion law. The sub-committee on devolution had been divided on the issue.

Yesterday John Smeaton, national director of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, said that Labour was "the most pro-abortion" Government that Britain had ever had. "Every member of the Cabinet has voted at least once for abortion up to birth, with Tony Blair having voted three times for this policy," he said. The Prime Minister was imposing a "veto" by preventing the Scots from deciding whether they wished to maintain a liberal abortion policy.

But Dr Norman Godman, Labour MP for Greenock and Inverclyde said that if regulations were tightened in Scotland women seeking abortions would simply cross the border. "We see that traffic, that very sad, depressing traffic of women coming across from both the north and south of Ireland and I would not want to subject Scotswomen to that kind of humiliation," Dr Godman told BBC Radio 4's *World at One*.

Abortion is not the only contentious issue on the Cabinet's devolution agenda. Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, fought off attempts by colleagues to reduce the number of Scottish MPs at Westminster or cut public spending in Scotland. After a series of meetings over several weeks Mr Dewar has won the battle to keep the 72 Scottish MPs at Westminster and the arrangements that give Scotland slightly higher spending per capita than in England.

Mr Dewar, who was backed by Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, and some of his Scottish colleagues was said to have been opposed by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, on both the number of MPs and public spending. Mr Straw has argued for some time that the Barnett funding formula for Scotland is too generous. The Liberal Democrats assumed the status of official opposition to the Government yesterday on Parliament's Scottish Grand Committee, which met for the first time since the general election. The Tories, having no MPs in Scotland, are not represented. The Liberal Democrats are the second biggest party on the committee with ten seats.

Assistant jailed for assaults on patients

Birt seeks to fund B digital fu

The real problem is that councillors are not in control

Money is the key to all politics. Just as those who control budgets control policy, so the only truly responsible politicians are those who have to raise taxes. That is what has been wrong with local government in Britain for so long, and it is the central flaw in Labour's proposals for Scottish devolution.

That is apart from the bizarre idea, apparently blocked, to give the Scottish Parliament powers over abortion. Not only would this produce bitter divisions over abortion as the Parliament was being set up, but it would also undermine any new national Bill of Rights. Even in a federal state such as America, civil rights and

abortion are decided on a national basis.

Yesterday's third report from the Nolan Committee is full of good sense about local government ethics. The committee is right to recommend a new statutory offence of misuse of public office (not involving bribery or corruption) to replace the District Auditor's powers to surcharge councillors. This is separate from the Home Office's current consultation about a new offence of corruption.

But necessary though these proposals are, they deal with symptoms, not causes. The real problem is that elected representatives are not properly responsible. At present, locally raised, and decid-

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

ed, council tax accounts for little more than 15 per cent of local authority budgets. The rest comes from central government grants and a centrally determined business rate. Moreover, Whitehall tightly controls how this money is spent, and this has only been partially relaxed since May 1. This limits the role of local councillors. Admittedly, there has been a marked change in the culture of local government since the early 1980s, but the low turnout in local council elections, lower than in other European countries, reflects the public's realistic appraisal of

the lack of power of their local councils.

A Scottish parliament could be in exactly the same position. It would mainly be responsible for administering a block grant of expenditure determined in London, and related under the Barnett formula to equivalent English spending plans. The Edinburgh Parliament would have discretion within that total to reallocate between priorities on domestic programmes, such as health, education and the like. But its ability to vary the basic rate of income tax, by up to 3p in the pound, would amount to only about 3 per cent or so of the present Scottish Office budget. It is astonishing in many ways how

much publicity Michael Forsyth was able to generate with his warnings about a "tarian tax" when the sums involved are so small, and smaller relatively than variations in the level of council tax. This plan is a recipe for constant clashes between Edinburgh and London over the formula for setting the grant.

If the Scottish parliament is to work, it should be given much greater powers to vary, and set, rates of tax — as any American state, or indeed city, has. Politicians in American cities, and states, are aware that if they set too high a rate of tax, they will not only deter business investment but they will be voted out of office. In Britain, the chain is broken by the

limited control that councils have over tax-raising which encourages low turnout and less responsible local politicians. That is why safeguards such as capping are needed.

It is time to devolve financial responsibility, both to a Scottish parliament and to local councils. That needs to be reinforced by annual elections and probably also proportional representation — as in the proposed Scottish parliament — to prevent domination by one party. If the Blair Government believes what it says about pluralism, it needs to relax its controls over tax-raising and expenditure.

PETER RIDDELL

Unions side with Blair after party conference deal

By Jill Sherman, Chief Political Correspondent

THE Labour leadership has done a deal with the trade unions to secure their backing for Tony Blair's measures to modernise the party's structure and reduce the policy-making power of the annual conference.

The three largest unions, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the GMB and Unison, are said to have agreed to back the new proposals, which have been heavily opposed by constituency parties. In return the unions say that the Labour leadership has agreed that they will be able to put forward their own motions at the annual conference, even if these contradict party policy.

They have also been given assurances that they will not lose any of their 12 trade union places on the National Executive Committee. Under the "Partnership in Power" proposals, which will be ratified by the NEC later this month, the leadership

suggested that unions would not be able to submit their own motions at conference. But union sources yesterday said that a deal had been reached to allow minority motions to go forward. It could result in the biggest unions combining forces if they wished to defeat the Labour leadership on a particular issue.

The modernisation plans, which in effect reduce the annual conference to a rubber-stamping exercise, have prompted an unprecedented number of hostile conference motions from constituencies. They are particularly concerned about the loss of their right to table questions at the party conference and about changes to make the NEC less influential, which will give Tony Blair greater control.

Some 111 motions have been tabled on the "Partnership in Power" plans, and nearly 90 per cent are critical. Several constituencies have complained that the changes will reduce democracy in the party and give them much less say in policymaking. Although the Labour leadership is confident of NEC backing for the plans there is still concern that a handful of small unions could side with the constituencies and defeat Mr Blair.

Constituency delegates have unusually been called to a series of meetings in August, ostensibly to prepare them for the conference. But they may be subjected to a charm offensive to persuade them to back the Prime Minister.

IN PARLIAMENT

TODAY in the Commons: from 9.30am, backbench debates including on freedom of information and access to government papers. From 2.30pm, Northern Ireland questions; Prime Minister's Questions; debate on pensions; backbench debates on case of James Miles and Paul Lloyds in Venezuela. In the Lords: debate on Jubilee 2000 meeting to remit backlog of unpayable debt of poorest countries; co-ordinating relations between political advisers, the Civil Service and Cabinet committees; Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Amendment) Bill, second reading.



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Assistant jailed for assaults on patients

A CARE assistant who bullied elderly people at the nursing home at which he worked was jailed for three years yesterday.

Karl Wright assaulted his victims, aged between 63 and 99, over a four-month period at the home in Redditch, Worcestershire. Some were suffering from senile dementia and paranoid psychosis. Two were blind.

Wright laughed off his behaviour, telling other members of staff that they had no sense of humour. Worcester Crown Court was told. Wright, 25, of Redditch, admitted eight charges of common assault and five of indecent assault.

The prosecution said that many of the attacks happened when the victims were naked after having a bath or being dried. All the evidence came from staff because the victims were unable to make statements. Wright, who is married with two children, was arrested in July last year. He told police that the staff had invented the allegations against him.

Homes for the elderly face a health check

OFT inspectors will look at value for money offered by care firms to 'silent consumers'. Alexandra Frean reports

the most vulnerable consumers and in care homes they may be reliant upon others for all their needs. Many may not know what they can expect in terms of value for money or services, and who they could complain to when something goes wrong.

Mr Bridgeman said he wanted to ensure that elderly people were given sufficient information to enable them to choose the best home for them and that they were made aware of the extent of what services were included in the fees they were paying. "Do they have to pay for their newspapers themselves, and what arrangements are made for hairdressing?"

The inquiry will also focus on the adequacy of financial protection for residents in homes. This includes the degree of control they are allowed over their own money. According to a recent report from the charity Age

Concern, elderly people in care homes require an allowance averaging £38.75 a week to meet their personal needs, compared to the £14.10 they are allowed under government regulations.

A spokeswoman for Age Concern welcomed this aspect of the inquiry, saying that the charity wanted residents to have as much control over their personal cash as possible. She added that staff should not be appointed to collect residents' pensions and deal with other financial affairs for them.

Mr Bridgeman said that the OFT would also examine whether residents were required to surrender their benefit books when they entered a home, and whether their money was kept in a separate account from the home's own money so that if the institution closed down, it was not lost.

Dr Chai Patel, chief executive of the Care First group,

one of Britain's leading providers of care services, welcomed the inquiry. "I am confident it will be impressed by the improved standards within the sector, but it is bound to highlight areas which require improvement."

Despite concerns that so-called "granny farming" has become increasingly popular in the last few years, the sector is feeling a squeeze on profits because of a decline in occupancy and a tightening of the rates paid by local authorities.

According to a recent report by the independent consultants Laing and Buisson, Britain's 20,000 independent sector nursing and residential homes have seen their profits fall to close to zero in the last year after two years of growth in 1994 and 1995. Returns from a typical 50-bed nursing home are now running at 50p per day per available bed.



Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, the opera singer, after receiving an honorary doctorate from the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday at Cambridge University

Birt seeks cuts to fund BBC's digital future

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE BBC is to cut more than 20 per cent of its budgets over the next five years to finance the digital revolution.

John Birt, the Director-General, admitted that there would be job losses as savings were made through improved technology and "multi-skilling".

The publication of the BBC's annual report yesterday revealed that 9 per cent of the BBC's income would be spent on introducing digital services. Some money will come from raising the licence fee and the sale of domestic transmitters, but the biggest contribution will come from a further change in the BBC's efficiency, of more than 20 per cent over the next five years.

Mr Birt said. Pressed on the question of job losses, he said: "It is not possible to be very precise about how that will play out... but I do expect the workforce of the BBC to be smaller in a few years."

But he stressed that with the new digital channels there

would be more people making programmes. The job losses are likely to come from areas such as administration and engineering, as new technology allows programme makers to do more technical tasks themselves.

The BBC is poised to launch a range of digital services including 24-hour news, BBC1 and BBC2 in widescreen format and an education channel. Viewers will need a decoder which is not yet available in the shops.

In the past three years the BBC has already cut 4,000 jobs from a workforce of 22,000 in its drive for efficiency. Mr Birt said that the corporation's finances were now robust with a cash surplus of £121 million.

On programming, Mr Birt spoke in the annual report about failures in the BBC's drama output. He singled out the two costume dramas, *Rhodes* and *Nostramo*, which proved to be expensive flops.

He praised successes, such as *The Mill on the Floss*, *The Crown Road* and the cult series *This Life*. "However, not all our drama has been as compelling. There is always a high degree of risk incurred in attempting to dramatise the life of a historical figure like *Rhodes*, or in adapting a highly complex novel such as *Nostramo*. Both proved to be a disappointment."

The Heritage Secretary yesterday refused to condemn Mr Birt's 20 per cent pay rise. Chris Smith said that it was a matter for the BBC governors, and that broadcasters operated in a highly competitive market.



Birt forecast more staff cuts in quest for savings

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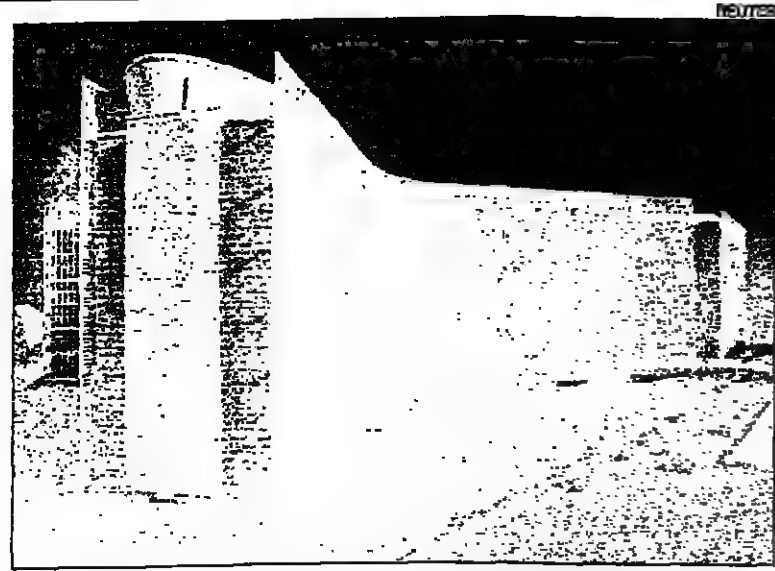
Cabinet home plans show row over abortion

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An artist's model of the Berlaymont after a £251 million facelift

Brussels 'white elephant' gets millennium look

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission unwrapped its own monument for the millennium in Brussels yesterday: a revamped version of the Berlaymont building, the nerve centre of Euro-power abandoned in 1991 in an asbestos scare.

In a deal with the Belgian Government, the Commission will return to its sprawling seat in the summer of 2000 after a purple and architectural remake costing the EU £251 million.

After lying derelict for four years, the Berlaymont, a curious winged edifice in the shape of a

bent star which housed 3,000 Eurocrats, was in 1995 sheathed from roof to pavement in gleaming white plastic while workers stripped out 3,000 tonnes of asbestos. The Commission has, meanwhile, been working from various premises, with its seat in a nondescript office block well beneath the dignity of the European executive.

The striking effect of the sheathed Berlaymont, in the heart of Brussels' EU quarter, has prompted many a visitor to suppose they had stumbled on the latest oeuvre by Christo, the artist who wrapped the Reichstag and other monuments. The Christo effect is set to endure,

because the Belgian state owners liked the wrapped look so much that they are replacing the grey glass exterior with a new design for 2000 featuring an all-white facade. Perched on the building will be Space Age premises for the 20 commissioners that resemble an ocean liner.

The deal, under which the Commission became the sole owner in 27 years, was projected yesterday as a happy ending to a saga that had offered easy metaphors for bungling at the heart of Europe. André Flahaut, the Belgian minister in charge of the project, said the accord would lift many doubts and apprehensions. "We have to

admit that the presence of a building both contaminated with asbestos and unoccupied served neither Europe's nor Belgium's image."

When the 25-year-old Berlaymont was abandoned amid lawsuits from its inhabitants, some experts had suggested blowing it up. Under wraps, the project has suffered a string of mishaps that have reinforced the image of the white elephant.

Police have rounded up undocumented foreign workers from the site, asbestos extraction was stopped by strikes and someone set the place on fire last year.

Erikki Likanen, the Commis-

sioner responsible for administration, yesterday promised a building that would be a new landmark and symbol of the European aspiration. In keeping with his drive for cost-cutting and modesty, the Finnish commissioner also promised it would be "sober and functional".

This, if borne out, will offer a contrast to the lavish newly completed Brussels home of the European Parliament, a billion-pound pile down the street. Its justification has become even more tenuous since EU leaders confirmed Strasbourg as the parliament's main seat at last month's summit.

Kohl's woes on euro deepened by jobless rise

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

HELMUT KOHL's hopes of a summer improvement in the labour market were dashed yesterday by stubbornly high unemployment figures.

The seasonally adjusted figure of more than 4.3 million jobless means that the pressure will continue to mount on Government spending and the public-sector deficit goals for the euro will be pushed further out to sea.

"Economic improvements are progressing, but there is still no turnaround on the jobs market," conceded Bernhard Jagoda, the president of the Federal Labour Office.

In the west of Germany, the number of people out of work fell by 1,000 — after taking into account seasonal factors — but rose in the east by 12,000. Yet the Government, which first predicted unemployment of below four million for 1997, then 4.1 million, had hoped for a dramatic improvement in the summer months. Now, those arguing for more emphasis on jobs rather than keeping to the tight fiscal corsets of Maastricht, will be able to make hay.

There is a broad informal coalition pressing for the postponement of economic and monetary union, in its van-

guard is Edmund Stoiber, the Bavarian Prime Minister, who called again this week for a "controlled delay" in the euro if Germany fails to meet the strictly interpreted Maastricht public deficit target of 3 per cent of gross domestic product.

Gerhard Schröder, the Social Democratic Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, made a similar plea in an interview with *The Times* last week. Although at opposite ends of the political spectrum, both men argue that the euro could begin in 2001, when European cash and banknotes are supposed to come into circulation. That would give France and Germany time to bring down their public spending further and create the necessary popular trust. There are several central bankers and influential economists supporting this line.

First discussions have begun about how to frame a Constitutional Court challenge if Germany fails to meet precisely the 3 per cent goal. The court is committed to ensuring that there is no fudge of the entry criteria by the German Government.

The drum beating of the delay lobby in Germany sug-

gests that they sense their position cannot be held for very much longer. The closer Herr Kohl, the German Chancellor, storms towards the decision date — spring 1998 — the more precarious becomes the platform of the EMU postponers. If a careful strategy is not worked out soon, delay could be tantamount to destroying the euro. Herr Stoiber and Herr Schröder say this is not their aim.

The betting is that the euro will dominate political debate in Germany during the summer and that there will be a big, perhaps final, push for postponement in the autumn. The Chancellor's advisers have been bracing themselves for this onslaught.

Significantly, all the key Cabinet ministers have decided this year to take their holidays inside Germany, but within easy reach of Bonn. Their position would have been fortified if there were stronger signs of economic recovery — or of unemployment responding more quickly to the improved growth. But as economists explained yesterday, the Germany recovery is being led by big exporting companies — which are continuing to lay off workers.



The ruins of the indoor pool at Herodian. It was once covered by a stone vault that has since collapsed

Herod's swimming pool found

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN JERUSALEM

ISRAELI archaeologists have discovered the oldest indoor swimming pool in the Holy Land, dating back to 10 BC and situated at what was Herod the Great's once spectacular summer palace at Herodion, now in the occupied West Bank.

Ehud Netzer, a Hebrew University archaeology pro-

fessor, the man in charge of the dig, said: "This is an important discovery because it shows the popularity of swimming as a form of recreation. Previous outdoor pools had been found dating from the same or earlier periods, but this is the first indoor pool big enough for swimming from the time of the Second Temple [destroyed by the Romans in AD 70] to be found in all of Israel."

According to Professor Netzer, there is evidence to show that during Herod's reign swimming became a serious form of recreation. He believes the Herodian pool was used for that purpose, rather than baths, which would have been taken at 15 smaller bathhouses, containing tubs or small stepped pools.

"We know that the outdoor pools were used for swimming — the one that we found in Jericho was a colossal 90



Josephus: macabre tale of the killing pool

yards long, and another at Masada 18 yards by 13 yards," he said. "It seems at Herodion the evening breezes were chilly enough for the swimmers to want cover. At the time, swimming was segregated, but we cannot be sure if the women were allowed to use the pool at different times."

The experts, assisted by Bedouins in the area about five miles east of Bethlehem and not far from the controversial new Jewish settlement site at Har Homa, uncovered the indoor pool when completing exploration of the large bathhouse of Herod, which was halted in 1987 because of the Palestinian intifada.

Professor Netzer said he believed the first written reference to the popularity of swimming in the Holy Land was provided by the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus (AD 37-100). Describing one hot evening at the Hasmonian Palace in Jericho in 35BC when Herod encouraged a rival, the 17-year-old high priest Aristobolus III, to go swimming, he writes that "Herod's acquaintances, as he had appointed, dipped him [Aristobolus], as he was swimming... as if it was done only in sport, nor did they desist until he suffocated."

Russian police die in bombing of lorry

FROM ROBIN LODGE
IN MOSCOW

AT LEAST seven Russian policemen were killed and a dozen injured in the volatile North Caucasus region of southern Russia yesterday when their lorry was blown up, close to the border with the breakaway republic of Chechnya.

The explosion, near the town of Khasavyurt in the autonomous republic of Dagestan, was caused by a radio-controlled bomb hidden in a tree by the road, a Dagestan Interior Ministry spokesman said. The death toll may rise, he added.

There have been a number of violent incidents in the border region since Russia withdrew the last of its troops from Chechnya in January. Dagestan blames Chechen infiltrators.

In a separate incident on the Chechen border, gunmen seized six people travelling in a minibus as they travelled from the North Caucasus region of North Ossetia to neighbouring Ingushetia. Tass said that five of the victims were Chechens.

Kidnappings have become commonplace in and around Chechnya, with the abductors demanding ransoms for the release of their victims. Last Wednesday two British aid workers were seized by gunmen from a house in the Chechen capital, Grozny. There has been no word since on their whereabouts or any demands by their kidnappers.

The French aid organisation Médecins Sans Frontières announced yesterday that one of its workers, Christophe André, had been abducted last week from its regional headquarters in the Ingush capital, Nazran.



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Mir crew unload supplies for repairs

By Robin Lodge

THE crew of the Russian space station Mir yesterday began unloading supplies from the cargo craft that docked on Monday, bringing crucial parts and equipment for repairs, as well as a few creature comforts.

For Michael Foale, the British-born American astronaut, the unloading will have provided him with a welcome opportunity to brush his teeth, shave and change his clothes since a collision on June 25 separated him from his belongings. Dr Foale had made a special request for a toothbrush, toothpaste, razor and medical kit to be sent with the supply shipment.

The collision, during a practice docking manoeuvre with an unmanned cargo craft, smashed a hole in the Spektr research module of the space station which Dr Foale had been using as his living quarters. The crew sealed off the module to maintain pressure in the rest of the complex, but have since been operating on little more than half normal power.

Repair work is due to begin next week, when Dr Foale's Russian colleagues, Commander Vasili Tsibuliyev and Flight Engineer Aleksandr Lazutkin, will attempt to re-attach severed cables from Spektr's solar panels to the station's main power supply.

Dr Foale is expected to wait in the Soyuz escape capsule, while the two cosmonauts enter the damaged module, to allow for a speedy evacuation of Mir if necessary.

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In Madrid, from left: President Clinton, David Oddsson, President of Iceland, Tony Blair, President Chirac, Helmut Kohl and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister

Chirac bows to Anglo-US deal

LATE-night drinks enjoyed by President Clinton and Tony Blair in a central Madrid hotel room helped to forge an inalienable partnership yesterday that persuaded other Nato leaders — even President Chirac — to reach an agreement over alliance expansion.

After both men had made it clear that they would refuse to support the membership claims of Romania and Slovenia for the first wave of Nato's expansion programme, the French President reluctantly went along with the American and British demand that accession invitations should be restricted to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. Invitations were duly handed to the chosen three to begin negotiations.

The climbdown by France and up to eight other Nato members saved a damaging split over what was intended to be one of the most historic developments for more than



Midnight beers helped to seal the future of Nato, reports Michael Evans in Madrid

40 years. M Chirac, who had caused anger by dragging the "three or five" issue right up to the last moment, agreed to drop his campaign. In return, he won agreement for the communiqué to single out the "hope" — though without a written guarantee — of joining in the second wave.

It was the alliance of Mr Clinton and Mr Blair, however, that had most people talking. Although the two had previously underlined their view that three new members was more than enough for the alliance to absorb in the first wave, their personal get-together in Mr Clinton's suite at the glitzy Miguel Angel hotel

forged a new determination to outplay the French President. Mr Clinton had invited the Prime Minister to join him after they had both attended a Nato dinner on Monday evening. Over glasses of San Miguel beer, and "cheesy things", they hammered out a strategy for resolving the dispute with those backing a bigger expansion.

Although Chirac Blair had not accompanied the Prime Minister to Madrid — "she didn't want to," a British official said — Hillary Clinton popped in for a social "chat" while her husband and Mr Blair plotted the next day's events. Officials arrived to complete details near the end of the 90-minute get-together.

The impact of the post-dinner drinks became apparent when the Nato summit opened formally yesterday morning. Mr Blair said Nato had to make a "hard-nosed" decision. If five countries joined at the same time, it would mean increasing Nato's population by 20 per cent and its borders by another 50 per cent.

He admitted to the other Nato leaders that those pushing for only three new members in the first wave — to be completed by 1999 — were in a minority. But, he said, there was a firm understanding between America and Britain that expansion must be kept to three countries.

Other Nato members sup-

porting five included Spain and Italy. Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, appeared to have a foot in both camps, reluctant to drop his enthusiasm for Romania but recognising there would be consensus for only three.

The deal with France emerged when the communiqué was produced. It made special mention of progress achieved by Romania and Slovenia and referred to the importance of the "Baltic region" to ensure that Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia were given encouragement to think membership of the alliance was a potential prize.

Although M Chirac accepted the summit deal, he confirmed that France was not yet

ready to rejoin the integrated military structure because, he said, Nato had not done enough to reform itself. He called for an alliance that was "lighter, cheaper, more flexible and more effective".

He also called for a new balance between Europe and America over the leadership of the alliance. Mr Clinton said he was prepared to let Europe have a bigger say in Nato.

Mr Blair said: "This is a realistic and sensible agreement. Of course, some other countries would like to have gone further. But this is not a political club, this is a military alliance."

□ Moscow: Yevgeni Primakov, the Russia Foreign Minister, yesterday reiterated his country's view on Nato's expansion into what was Communist Eastern Europe, denouncing it as the worst mistake to be made on the continent since the Second World War. (Reuters)

Cook threatens veto in Rock row with Spain

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND GILES TREMLETT

BRITAIN yesterday threatened to veto Spain's entry into Nato's integrated command structure if Madrid does not lift military restrictions on movements in and out of Gibraltar.

Asked if the Government would block Spain's entry, Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, replied: "Yes, we can and, yes, we will, unless there is an agreement." He said that, if Spain were to take part in the integrated command structure, it must behave as an ally. Britain wanted its military aircraft to use Spanish airspace to go in and out of the Rock. He said that for the past two months Spain had refused to discuss proposals that Britain had made.

Yesterday Spain remained defiant. Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said his country would not lift any restrictions that might affect its rightful claim to sovereignty. His statement made clear that he was referring to the movement of aircraft, as Gibraltar's airport is on the isthmus which Spain claims as its territory.

To warm applause, José María Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, told the Nato summit that Spain would join Nato's military structure as soon as the new command arrangements had been worked out. An impasse over Gibraltar will

ensure a British veto, however. Spain has already announced that it will lift longstanding restrictions on warships docking in Spanish ports en route to or from Gibraltar, and Eduardo Serra, the Defence Minister, told a parliamentary committee last month that Spain was ready to offer other concessions.

Britain is also calling for an end to restrictions on civilian aircraft, which cannot fly over Spain if they leave from Gibraltar.

In a BBC interview, Mr Cook insisted that Britain would never agree to a Spanish sub-regional command having any direct command over Gibraltar. "That is not on the cards." If a new regional command was set up in Madrid, Gibraltar would cease to be part of the Nato Atlantic command reporting to a sub-regional command in Portugal, and troops there would report directly to Britain.

Spain is also locked in a quarrel with Portugal over Nato jurisdiction of the seas around the Canary Islands.

At present these fall under the Atlantic command, but Madrid says that, since the islands are Spanish territory, it should have special sea lane access to them over which it has command. The rest of Nato has dismissed this as ridiculous.

Bosnian Serbs told to halt police abuses

BY MICHAEL BINYON

They said Bosnian Serbs risked even greater isolation and a cut-off in all financial and economic assistance if they did not comply with the Dayton accords.

The statement did not spell out the threat, freely voiced here, of a commando operation to seize Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, the leading figures wanted for war crimes. As one official said: "If we were going to do that, we would hardly announce it to thousands of journalists."

NATO yesterday gave the Bosnian Serbs a final warning that it would not tolerate a return to violence, violations of human rights or undermining of the Dayton accords.

In a tough statement, alliance leaders said they were "deeply concerned" by the political crisis in Republika Srpska, where they saw "an increasingly anti-democratic climate and abuses of police authority".

Joy and sulks in 'city of peace'

IS THIS the future of Nato? Presidents, Prime Ministers and envoys from more than 40 countries, from Iceland to Kyrgyzstan? Military strategies lost in a sea of regional squabbles and local sensitivities? An army of bureaucrats and a building the size of an aircraft hanger to house journalists from Europe and North America, not to mention the Japanese?

There have been few such unwelcome surprises. The chosen 16 have assembled according to hallowed tradition, sweeping up in themselves the burden of the world's peacekeeping efforts, from the Spanish coast, José María Aznar, looking for the cameras and hiding at the vast table with the centre space filled by a floral Nato logo.

For them, it was business as usual, an extra large chair brought in for the 19-stone Helmut Kohl, a lunch made less digestible by the horrors of Bosnia, haggling about money and a lecture from an American Senate delegation, calling itself "Shog" (Senate Nato Observer Group) on the need for Europe to do more to take care of itself. There was also some high-minded talk about safeguarding liberty, enshrining democracy, stopping nuclear proliferation and making Madrid, as the summit posters boast, a "city of peace".

Almost twice as many leaders, however, arrived by the back door. They are waiting for their turn today when the grand first working session of the new Europe-Atlantic Partnership Council groups together Nato, its supplicants,



Michael Binyon in Madrid examines the unwieldy army of bureaucrats and envoys from more than 40 countries

applicants and sceptics and even those countries such as Switzerland which have emerged from their Alpine isolation and are experiencing for the first time the joys of political summits.

The beaming leaders of the three winning delegations are the belles of the ball. Gyula Horn of Hungary, Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic and Aleksander Kwasniewski of Poland are being initiated into the mysteries of membership and everyone wants to be seen in their company. For the

losers, a huge effort is being made to cheer them up, and promise that the door will open next time. The Romanians are the unhappiest, having come so far so fast and failing at the final moment.

Not all the 44 delegations here are so enamoured of Nato. The Russians are just on the polite side of a diplomatic sulk, and President Yeltsin has sent only his Nato ambassador and a little-known Deputy Prime Minister. The Belarusians, even more hostile, sent only a

presidential representative, and the Turkmen dispatched the Ambassador to Paris.

Some delegations have other things on their minds. Bashkim Fino, apparently still Prime Minister of Albania, was wondering whether Nato membership would be determined more by Kalamashnikovs at home rather than ennobled talk to allies now patrolling his country. The Turks are in the throes of forming a new, post-Islamic government, and while Mesut Yilmaz puts together a Cabinet in Ankara President Demirel decided he would come to Madrid instead to demonstrate Turkish solidarity and continuity.

Local quarrels have at least been kept at bay. The Azerbaijanis will today sit down with the Armenians, the Greeks with the Macedonians and even the British with the French. Tony Blair's men let it be known that he was scornful of any proposals for the admission of more than three applicants "coming from a country that is not itself a member of the military structure". And the French have been putting the word about that it is Britain's fixation over Gibraltar that has held up Spain's own entry into the integrated military command.

The British Natural Law Party says the whole Nato expansion is a waste of time. It claims that the only effective deterrence is transcendental meditation, and is promising today to demonstrate a form of aviation unavailable even to Nato air force planners: yogic flying.



Behrendt's view of Nato's efforts to cheer up Eastern European countries in Amsterdam's De Telegraf

Britain to escape economic fallout

BY MICHAEL EVANS

THE long wait for the three countries chosen to be new members of Nato is finally over. But now the financial reckoning begins.

From the start of the process, the frontrunners — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic — were told that they would have to shoulder a large proportion of membership costs. In effect, that has meant scrapping ancient Soviet-built aircraft and armoured personnel carriers and buying or leasing Western (principally American) weapons to ensure interoperability with their new security partners.

They have also had to transform their armies from being Soviet-dependent War-

saw Pact forces into troops capable of fighting alongside the sophisticated Western armies. The Hungarians still have a long way to go, whereas the Polish Army has made great strides, according to Nato officials.

However, at a time when the East European nations have been struggling to develop market economies and improve social conditions since the collapse of communism, their parliaments have had to face the prospect of investing huge sums in modern military equipment.

Nato has agreed to help with basic improvements to military infrastructure, including hardening runways, replacing radar systems and developing reinforcement facilities. But every attempt is being made to limit the costs to existing Nato

members. British officials are even claiming that there will be no extra cost for the Ministry of Defence. The British share of the infrastructure costs arising from the expansion programme will be met, they say, by "re-prioritising" existing funding. Britain currently pays £135 million a year towards Nato's common funding budget and £21 million towards the civilian budget, which includes the alliance's headquarters in Brussels.

Despite American insistence that existing Nato members will have to beef up their forces to be ready to mount rapidly deployable units to the new member states in a crisis, British officials at the Madrid summit insisted the expansion programme would not be a net cost for British taxpayers.

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Nairobi march planned to ruin Moi's big day

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

NAIROBI appeared to be heading for another bout of violence yesterday after opposition groups vowed to march on President Moi's official residence in an attempt to disrupt a regional summit.

The move came a day after ten people were killed and scores seriously injured when demonstrations were broken up by club-wielding police who arrested more than a dozen MPs on Monday. The Rev Timothy Njoya was yesterday in a critical condition after he was hit over the head several times by policemen who earlier reargassed worshippers in Nairobi's All Saints Cathedral.

Sources close to the Presbyterian Moderator said they feared he could die from his injuries. Several MPs were also still recovering in hospital after Monday's demonstrations, the most violent in seven years.

The National Convention Assembly, part of a coalition of opposition groups calling for curbs on presidential powers before elections later this year, said that thousands of people were expected to march on State House, Mr Moi's residence, where he is hosting two days of talks with the heads of neighbouring governments on Sudan's civil

war. The march is expected to be blocked. Mr Moi dislikes any form of criticism at home and has long enjoyed a role as a regional diplomatic fixer in many local civil wars.

In choosing today for more demonstrations, the protesters intend to humiliate the President in front of his fellow statesmen, including Eritrea's President Aferwerki, President Bashir of Sudan and Meles Zenawi, Ethiopia's Prime Minister.

The demonstrations, billed as a national day of mourning for those killed on Monday, will be particularly galling for Mr Moi, 73, who is seen as a relic of a dying age of dictatorial-style African potentates by the younger leaders of Ethiopia, Eritrea and Uganda. The triumvirate were active supporters of Laurent Kabila's successful uprising against Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire earlier this year.

The timing is doubly bad for Mr Moi because the International Monetary Fund last week froze more than £21 million in aid when the Kenyan courts dismissed the case against a group of businessmen who had been accused of defrauding the country of £300 million. The "Goldenberg scandal" was one of the "most blatant thefts from the

treasury of any African country and ranks as a Mobutu-style heist," one Western diplomat said yesterday. The IMF is expected to send a team to investigate why the Kenyan Attorney-General and courts have failed to prosecute a single case in the affair.

University students who chant Mr Kabila's name to taunt Mr Moi are expected to be in the vanguard of the march on State House. Their campus residences are close to Mr Moi's official home.

Richard Leakey, the opposition politician and conservationist, said yesterday that "there is a growing attitude that we are not going to stop civil disobedience until Moi comes up with the reforms necessary to make this a genuine democracy".

Dr Leakey, a third-generation Kenyan and member of the unregistered Safina party, said that it was a "scandal" that police were deployed to break up Monday's "non-violent protests".

Students did, however, throw stones and firing missiles from slingshots in running skirmishes with the police. Many groups fear that, if they employ the same tactics during the State House march, the police will open fire with live ammunition.



President Moi hosts talks at his official residence yesterday on the civil war in Sudan

WORLD IN BRIEF

Campaign to sever Privy Council link

Washington: Commonwealth countries in the Caribbean are launching a campaign to abolish appeals to the Privy Council and appoint a regional Supreme Court (Tom Rhodes writes). A growing body of critics throughout the English-speaking Caribbean, from Jamaica to Barbados, no longer wishes to retain the council as absolute tribunal. Since a council ruling in 1993 to commute capital punishment for prisoners spending more than five years on Death Row, crime has been increasing, as has the number of convicted death sentences and the anger of the terrified population.

Meanwhile, the St Kitts and Nevis parliament is to consider a Bill to create the nation's first standing army to combat the threat of heavily armed drug traffickers.

General deserts Plavsic

Banja Luka: Bosnian Serb hardliners took a step nearer consolidating their power as their army's senior commander appeared to drop his support for Biljana Plavsic, the president, and her anti-corruption fight (Tom Walker writes). A brief statement by General Pero Cerovic, who succeeded Ratko Mladic, said the Bosnian Serb Army was "removed from the political process", increasing the isolation of Mrs Plavsic. A letter of support for her, signed by all international organisations, including Nato, said her move to dissolve parliament and call elections was wholly constitutional and in accordance with the Dayton Peace Accord.

Rusty plane just fell apart

Moscow: A passenger plane that crashed in southern Russia killing all 50 people on board was so rusted it simply fell apart, investigators said. The An-24 two-engine turboprop aircraft disintegrated 15 minutes after taking off from the southern city of Stavropol on March 18. The crash was caused by "massive corrosion" of the plane's fuselage, said Rudolf Teimurazov, head of the official investigation commission, according to the Tass news agency. The crash plane was 35 years old and had been decommissioned, but it returned to service with Stavropol Airlines after repairs. (AP)

Tamils hijack supply ship

Colombo: A crewman was shot dead as Tamil Tigers hijacked the *MSV Monong Bong*, a North Korean cargo vessel, off Vaddakkeni in the Jaffna peninsula of Sri Lanka. The ship had refused their orders to stop. The Voice of Tigers radio said the body and the other 37 crew, all unhurt, would be handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross. The 3,000-tonne craft was returning to Colombo after unloading food and other essentials in the peninsula. (AFP)

Killers in amnesty plea

Cape Town: Four blacks who killed Amy Biehl, 18, a white American student four years ago apologised to her parents Linda, right, and Peter, for what a lawyer described as an attack by sharks in a feeding frenzy. The four, serving 18-year prison terms for the murder, issued the apologies during a public application for amnesty to Archbishop Desmond Tutu's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The parents do not oppose the pleas. (Reuters)



Ousted prince warns rival of civil war in Cambodia

BY BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRINCE Norodom Ranariddh, Cambodia's ousted First Prime Minister, said yesterday that his country would be plunged into civil war unless his rival, Hun Sen, began immediate negotiations to restore him to power.

"I am willing to meet Hun Sen [the Second Prime Minister] to solve this problem within the existing legal

framework but if we cannot there will be, alas, a civil war in my poor country," Prince Ranariddh said in Paris.

The prince, who fled Cambodia on Friday before serious fighting erupted, accused Hun Sen's forces of assassinating one of his allies, Ho Sok, Secretary of State at the Interior Ministry. He said Ho Sok was killed when he tried to escape. He had been arrested trying to take refuge in the Singaporean Embassy, Khieu

Sopheak, the Interior Ministry adviser and a member of Hun Sen's party, said Ho Sok had been involved in "sabotage and plots". He was shot "by people angry with him".

Ho Sok was one of four senior members of Prince Ranariddh's Funcinpec party identified by Hun Sen as being responsible for two days of fighting in Phnom Penh that left at least 58 people dead and up to 200, mostly civilians, wounded. More than 1,000 people were being

flown out of Cambodia yesterday after Hun Sen gave assurances of security around Phnom Penh's battered Pochentong airport, which was damaged in weekend fighting.

Six Thai Air Force planes arrived in Bangkok from Cambodia carrying 700 people, mainly Thais and some foreigners. The C130s had flown to Phnom Penh several times earlier in the day to pick up stranded foreigners. More military planes were to fly

out late yesterday to ferry another 358 American, Dutch, Japanese and Australian nationals from Phnom Penh to Bangkok.

In Paris, Prince Ranariddh said he wanted to return to Cambodia to lead the resistance movement. He said he planned to address the UN Security Council in New York today. "I am asking the international community to take a clear position and to refuse to recognise a government resulting from a coup d'etat," he said.

Scientists follow dinosaurs' prints on path of discovery

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

A DINOSAUR highway containing thousands of fossilised footprints could be the greatest discovery of its kind in the world, palaeontologists suggested yesterday.

The 50-mile pathway stretches along remote coastline near Broome, in north Western Australia. The remarkable find is regarded as so important that scientists are keeping the exact location a secret, for fear of theft and vandalism.

The site contains the largest number of footprints and the greatest diversity of species, including two-legged plant-eating dinosaurs and giant four-legged species, such as the brontosaurus and stegosaurus.

Dr Tony Thulborn, leader of the three-man expedition that found them, said the



Traces of stegosaurus, above, are "best ever found"

footprints provided a window to the "habits and habits" of at least a dozen dinosaur species that lived 115 to 120 million years ago. The Queensland University palaeontologist added: "There were so many, it got to the point where we'd say 'not another bloody dinosaur footprint'."

He said the footprints ranged in size from a few inches to more than five feet. The path was revealed after the area was hit by recent cyclones. Giuseppe Leonardi, a Naples palaeontologist, said they were the best set of dinosaur footprints in the world.

In fact, marsupials first appeared in South America around 65 million years ago, towards the end of the dinosaur era, and reached Australia via Antarctica while the three were still linked.

Tasmania holly may be oldest plant

Hobart: Botanists believe they have discovered Earth's oldest living plant in the Tasmanian wilderness: a holly bush 43,000 years old.

The *Lomahia tasmanica* plant — King's Holly — is in a patch of rainforest in the island's southwestern World Heritage Area. Stephen Harris, chief botanist with the Tasmanian Parks and Wildlife Service, said it was found in the 1930s but its age had never been suspected.

Botanists had thought the oldest living plant was a huckleberry in the United States, dating back 12,000 years. The oldest tree is an Arizona bristlecone pine, dated at a youthful 4,700 years.

Mr Harris said the Tasmanian plant was a self-propagating clone. It did not produce seeds but reproduced by shedding "cuttings" on the forest floor which grew into genetically identical clones. The plant appeared to consist of several hundred individual shrubs, but they were genetically identical.

The plant has glossy, pointed leaves resembling holly and flowers regularly. A cutting had lived for years in a pot at the Royal Tasmanian Botanical Gardens.

Walkabout before the world split

BY NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

DINOSAURS first appeared when all the continents were joined as the single super-continent of Pangaea (All Earth). They were thus able to spread across the world. No species save man has ever had quite the same opportunity, because Pangaea began to

split around 200 million years ago to form two continents, Laurasia in the north and Gondwanaland in the south.

The southern continent, consisting of what is now Africa, South America, Australia and Antarctica, remained intact for rather longer. This explains why similar fossils and footprints are found in continents now

widely separated. After the break-up of Gondwanaland, Australia began to develop its distinctive fauna, the marsupials.

In fact, marsupials first appeared in South America around 65 million years ago, towards the end of the dinosaur era, and reached Australia via Antarctica while the three were still linked.

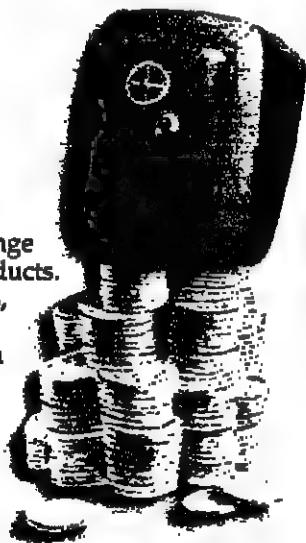
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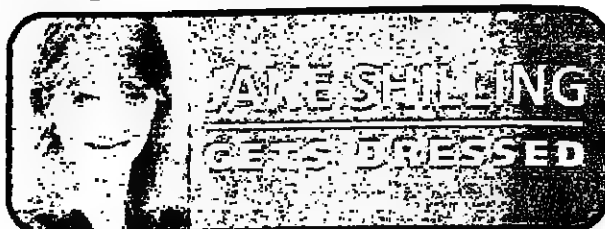
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Mrs Blair and my hairdresser



Between working all day in the office, and dashing home in the evenings to bake batches of iced buns for the school sports club's fundraising cake stall, I do not live what you might call an interesting life. My brushes with fame are few. Non-existent, in fact. So you can imagine how thrilled I was to open the newspapers and see that Mrs Blair had stumped up a tidy sum to fly André of Michaeljohn, or My Hairdresser, as I have until now referred to him when he cropped up in conversation, all the way to America to keep her hairdo under control.

Really, I felt just as excited as if I myself had personally done something very clever, and I fell at once to ringing up all my friends and saying: "Have you seen in the papers about Cherie Blair's hairdresser. André? Well, that's my André, yes the one who did that brilliant thing with my fringe."

(I ought here to mention, in the interests of André's professional pride, that he is most emphatically not responsible for the hairstyle that appears in the photograph at the top of this column. That is a look which I achieved all by myself, with the scissors from my sewing box, half a can of Sainsbury's Firm Control mousse and a vicarious hangover.)

The thing about hairdressers mostly is how absolutely awful they are, unless you happen to be Linda Evangelista — and I bet even she has once or twice had that thing when they prod you in the back of the neck with a tailcomb, roll their eyes at you in the mirror (you are never allowed to look at a hairdresser's actual flesh-and-blood face; only his sneering reflection in the glass, above your own, cruelly top-lit phiz, all flushed and shiny from the backwash), and say, in the tones of Kenneth Williams impersonating Dame Edith Evans: "Oooh gawd, well so who done this, then?"

The correct answer to this is: "You, actually, darling," but personally I never dare, for fear of reprisals. I just sit there humbly, staring at the glossy magazine in my lap, hoping that when I look up I shall have been turned into Celia Chancellor.

Oh, the things that have been done to me by hairdressers over the years. It is dead straight, my hair, and fine, and it grows down over my nose like a curtain. When I was at school, the curtain extended all the way to my waist, like Rapunzel. Rapunzel, let down your hair. It drove the games mistress wild, which was the one good thing about it. But it wasn't what you'd call flattering.

"It's lovely hair, as such," has been the coiffeur's refrain over the decades. "It's just that it doesn't do anything for you."

I've tried centre partings, side partings, fringes straight and graduated. I've had the whole lot permed into two foot of wriggly Pre-Raphaelite crimps. I once had something called a Spiral Cut, which began under my left ear and ended up on the other side somewhere below my right collarbone. In my twenties, I had the curtain lopped to a Dora Carrington bob, which caused my then young man to go a bit pale. "It makes you look very... clever," he said, eventually.

For those of us with Difficult Hair (and it is clear from the pictures of her in the papers that Mrs Blair is a member of our club) the search for the perfect hairdresser is a bit like the quest for true love. One starts off, young and full of hope, trying this one and that one, and time passes, and age begins to creep on, and the right chap just doesn't turn up — and eventually you think, Oh dear, well, after all, one can get through life without, I suppose...

And then, just as you've given up hope, Shazam! he bursts into your life and transforms it altogether, with his innovative layering and volume at the back and artistically gnawed asymmetric fringe. Really, I'm so pleased that at last it has happened for Mrs Blair. The only thing is, when I tried to get an appointment with André on Saturday, they said he was booked up forever. So I went to Kevin instead — and now I think it's love.

I felt as if I had done something very clever

Wrap up cool with a cardigan

Cardigans have lost their frumpy image to become sexy and stylish, says Grace Bradberry



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP RIGHT: Lime ribbed cardigan, approx £110 from Whistles. Beige dress, £398 by Pierce Fionda at Seindges, Oxford Street, W1. Purple lace cardigan, £295 and chocolate silk dress, £895 from Voyage, 115 Fulham Road, London SW3

Charcoal and black tie belt cardigan, £289 with matching top, £125 and trousers, £185 by Joseph at Liberty's, Regent Street, London W1. Pink rose cardigan, £24.99 by Kooka. Blue lace dress, £95 by Whistles, 12 St. Christopher's Place, W1

PHOTOGRAPHER: Tim White
STYLIST: Sunny Rowley
HAIR: Matthew Cross at Nicky Clarke using Nicky Clarke Hairmatherapy products
MAKE-UP: Daniel Sandler
MODEL: Esmeralda at Models 1

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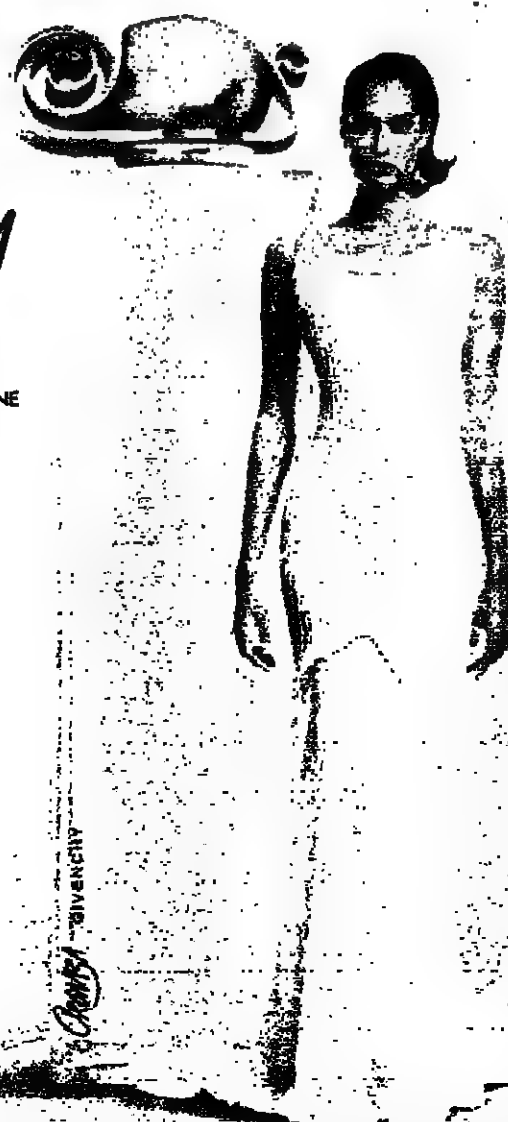
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When the upper crust cracks

Last week, Bob Hoskins called Noel Gallagher of Oasis the "greatest neighbour in Europe". The two live opposite each other in Steels Road, Balise Park, north London. "Noel's done the street a great favour," said Mr Hoskins. "House prices have gone right up since he moved in. You don't hear a thing from his house because he's spent a fortune on soundproofing."

His raving about Mr Gallagher, however, is the exception which proves a general rule: that especially among the grand and the famous, neighbourliness and viciousness are close relations.

Last month a classic scrap broke out in the Oxfordshire village of Garsington. The villagers had become increasingly fed up with the traffic and noise caused by the annual mini-Glyndebourne held at Garsington House, home of the banker Leonard Ingrams. So they organised a sabotage. On the opening night of the festival, just as the conductor brought in the orchestra for Haydn's *Le Poussin*, a choir of strimmers and lawn-mowers started up from the neighbouring gardens. A car alarm joined in, and one angry villager even buzzed the opera in a light aeroplane. The noise ceased during the dinner interval, then began again as soon as the opera resumed. Inside the manor, black-tied guests cheered loudly after every aria.

Recently reported fights between Diana, Princess of Wales and Princess Michael of Kent and between Martha Stewart, America's Delia Smith, and her neighbour, prove that no class is exempt from the feud between neighbours. In fact, the thicker the crust of respectability, the louder the noise when it cracks.

The cat-war of Kensington Palace began when Princess Michael ordered traps to be laid in the palace grounds to catch the strays which were pestering her pedigree Burmese and Siamese cats. According to Princess Michael's housekeeper at the time, Julia Dias, who is suing her former employer for unfair dismissal, Diana would crawl through the bushes to release any strays caught in the traps. When the RSPCA came to check the traps, Diana was said to have encouraged her two sons to shout "here come the cat-killers". Her loathing of Princess Michael, said Ms Dias, was not helped by the latter's habit of referring to Diana as "the stupid girl next door".

Over in the Hamptons on Long Island, the favoured weekend retreat of New York's plutocrats, Mrs Stewart has been in trouble for allegedly threatening her neighbour's gardener. Mrs Stewart may be able to churn out books on cookery, interior decoration and fashion, but when confronted with insubordinate neighbours, she lost it.

Like all the best feuds, this was a slow boiler. Mrs Stewart and her neighbour, Harry Macklowe, had been rowing about a piece of land between their properties. When Mr Macklowe began planning earlier this year, in an area that Mrs



When it comes to feuding with the people next door, the upper classes can be savage, says Philip Delves Broughton

Stewart regarded as hers, she went to the East Hampton Village Zoning Board, which decided in her favour. Mr Macklowe obtained an immediate injunction barring Mrs Stewart from removing what he had already planted, but it was too late. She had already driven home and pulled up his plants.

Two months ago, however, Mrs Stewart returned to her mansion to find workers building a fence on the disputed land. She started screaming and, according to her lawyer, "made threatening moves with her truck", resulting in a landscape gardener being bruised on the thigh. The local police chief told reporters: "We're investigating a whole list of complaints against Mrs Stewart."

For advice on her next move, Mrs Stewart might put in a call to Charles Saatchi, the advertising whizz and mod-

renovations. Mr Tennant's solicitors filed a complaint alleging that the work had caused £95,600 of damage to their client's property. Worse still for the publicity-shy Mr Saatchi, Mr Tennant went to the press with his tale, accusing his neighbour of destroying a chestnut tree in his garden by boiling metal light-fittings into the branches which overhung the garden of No 26. He said that when the floodlights were turned on, it made his garden look like the parade ground at Colditz. Mr Saatchi said that three pin-spot lights highlighting his grotto hardly constituted Colditz lighting. Mr Tennant then said that the £95,600 claim was just for starters, to cover redecoration, and that Mr Saatchi should brace himself for a £250,000 bill for structural damage.

Mr Saatchi's gardener complained that on several occasions, as she worked on the trellises in the garden, the Tennants' Chinese houseboy would lean over and spray insecticide straight into her eyes while Tennant mouthed orders from an upstairs window. Mr Saatchi, an Iraqi-born Jew, said that he and his wife suffered a regular stream of anti-Semitic abuse, with swastikas and notes saying "Go home Jewboy" being stuffed through his letter box.

His Rolls-Royce Corniche was attacked with acid, had its windows smashed and finally, in May 1991, was torched. The suing and counter-suing, abuse and car attacks all ceased when Mr Tennant died of a heart attack in 1992, aged 62.

Things have not yet descended so far in Carlyle Square where, last year, Sir David Frost, whose neighbours include the Duchess of Portland and Felicity Kendal, was summoned to an emergency meeting of the Carlyle Square Committee after complaints that his children played football in the communal gardens.

Certain residents have it in for Sir David. They resent his annual summer party in the square. They wince as they see John Major and John Birt treading in the flowerbeds. His children were instructed to go to a public park with their ball rather than use the communal garden, but not before an acrimonious face-off between the committee, Sir David and his formidable wife, Lady Carina, one of the Duke of Norfolk's daughters.

With Martha Stewart under investigation, the Princess of Wales on all fours crawling through the Kensington undergrowth and Charles Saatchi counting the cost of a burnt-out Rolls Royce, Bob Hoskins can thank heaven he has so far done without the two essentials for modern neighbourly relations: a good strong stick and a lawyer.



The late James Tennant and his wife Elizabeth outside St Leonard's Terrace, scene of an epic feud between residents

The true myth of motherhood + A great age of programme-making + A word of warning for Sir Terence + Austin's mission to make things better

Why having a baby at 12 needn't be such a bad thing

A 12-year-old becomes the country's youngest mother and is at once furiously upbraided and invited on to every radio and television show going. What sort of a message must she — and other girls her age — be getting?

But then, what sort of a message must she have received already? Her parents, who have six other children between them, have never even told her the facts of life. Do you think they also don't yet know what's causing it?

It is that aspect that shows us — as shockingly contemporary as we like to think this particular story is — that all is as it ever was. Watch a programme about girls who got pregnant in the Fifties and had to put their children up for adoption, and you nearly always hear how in the dark these girls were about sex. Time after time, they were corrupted by their own innocence.

The modern aspect comes in the reaction of the parents — these newly minted grandpar-

ents. They blame the school and they blame the Government: they should really be doing something about this "tragic waste of life".

Forget, for one instant, the hideous lack of self-awareness, let alone responsibility for one moment. Does it not seem strange that a man should welcome his granddaughter into the world by hailing her "a waste of life"? There is a saying, I don't know if it's Irish or Jewish (comes to the same thing, really) which states that the child is always welcome. In some part, that should be remembered, even here.

I don't say it's ideal to have a child at 12, but some part of me wonders why we force our middle-class values and ideas on people who have no chance of sharing them. This pre-teenage mother isn't going to run Midland Bank: who's to say she isn't better off having a baby than sitting on some production line somewhere? But it's not just premature maternity that's lambasted these days, but motherhood in general. Itemising the woes of maternity is the coolest thing to do. Never mind how the children are going to feel when they read all this hostile outpouring (natural enough, but not for public display, surely) in later years. It seems to me that in presuming to blow one myth of motherhood, this lot are creating another.

One doesn't experience

Nigella Lawson



Pay up, it's programmes that matter

motherhood as a concept, one lives it as a relationship. When I had my first child, I was flummoxed when everyone kept asking me how I was enjoying motherhood. I never understood what they meant. I know how it feels to be the mother of my children, but that's it, and that's all it can be. The true myth of motherhood is not that it isn't what it's cracked up to be, but that it isn't, full stop.

I HAVE every sympathy with the liberal angst about John Birt's pay rise. It doesn't, I do see, look good. I'm sure to most of them it doesn't, personally or ideologically, feel good. But what I have no time

for is the cacophonous carping of the Right. All those who trumpeted the good sense of paying the likes of Derek Lewis huge sums of money, reminding us of market values, great competition (not that it looked as if there was much marketplace scrum-mage competing for his attentions) and that you can't pay peanuts if you don't want monkeys, are now seized with the wickedness of just that position.

Now they say that John Birt and his senior officers should realise that they are in public service and must expect, unassumingly, to be remunerated accordingly. Either you think that you need to pay up to have good people at the top, or you don't. Probably you do

have to. (Unfortunately, one often pays to have bad people at the top, too).

Far more worrying, anyway, than the pay rise accorded to the managers (although not irrelevant, I accept) is the pay cut meted out to the programme makers. The BBC may be a public institution, it may be a repository of our island values, it may be a property-owning, interest-wielding crypto-commercial concern: but all that matters is the programmes. Profit or not, it's the programmes that count, and those who make them.

Those currently in charge are, whatever you like to say, presiding over a great age of programme-making. Surely that should count in all this? They must be doing something right.

A cautionary tale...

NOW THAT the divorce settlement of the Conrans has been juiced for all its worth, commentators are opening metaphorical books on the prospect of a fourth Conran marriage. Just in case Sir Terence is considering renewing his faith in uxoriousness, I pass on to him the words of agony and experience of another much-alimoned-against man, one Lewis Grizzard. "I don't think I'll get married again," he concluded wryly. "I'll just find a woman I don't like and give her a house."

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Bad hair days — and a mission to reform

WHO can blame us if, all these Hamiltons and Aitkens later, we are cynical about just what it is that motivates our politicians? But it can't always have been like this. There must have been a time when every MP came into Parliament fired by a mission to make things better. Imagine, for instance, the idealism of the once-youthful Labour member for Great Grimsby — a man who looked around his world and saw inequality and injustice and decided that he would do something about it.

There is, after all, so much scope for so much zeal: a crumbling health service, unconscionably high unemployment, soaring crime, the ever-widening gap between the haves and the have-nots.

Great Grimsby, did his fiery bit. He introduced a Bill to regulate hairdressers, a Bill which, such are the constraints on the current Parliament, stands no chance of becoming an Act anyway.

Now, I'm sure that every tale of green hair, bad bleaching and instant baldness which Mr Mitchell movingly related to the House is someone's personal nightmare. But to take up the crusade is, not to put too fine a point on it, a bit sad.

Perhaps this is unfair of me: maybe every citizen — or rather subject — has indeed the right not to have to endure a bad hair day: I didn't read the small print in New Labour's manifesto, it's true. But really: how has it come to this?

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A favourite airline flies into the past

John Monks says Blair's Britain won't support BA's union-busting

An industrial tragedy is unfolding at British Airways. This is no simple disagreement that may inconvenience the rest of us, but is hardly worth getting excited about. Fundamental questions are at stake. BA's agenda has less to do with becoming more competitive, than with pursuing a union-busting agenda that may have gone with the political grain of the early 1980s but now looks distinctly old-fashioned.

And this is the tragedy. Here is far away as it is possible to get from the traditional image of industrial militants. There can be few readers of *Socialist Worker* in the staff lounges of Gatwick and Heathrow. Yet they are undoubtedly angry, as the company which they have so loyally served threatens them.

If BA had been seriously committed to settling this dispute through negotiation, then it would have been very different. BA refused to release staff representatives from their travel schedules last week until the weekend, thus cutting the time for meaningful negotiations. And it was unable to provide the TGWU with a copy of the agreement it claimed to have reached with Cabin Crew 89 — a breakaway union that does not speak for a majority of the cabin staff. It is hard to think of any other negotiation where union representatives were being asked to sign up to an agreement which management were unable to show them.

This lack of seriousness by BA management is shown by their preference for the studio over the negotiating table for discussion with the union as they follow a strategy based on sharp public relations, rather than good industrial relations. But despite BA's huge public relations budget, it is losing the public debate. Its tactics seem as dated as its anti-union stance. Too many people have suffered from job insecurity and over-nightly bosses in the past decade. Indeed, this is one reason why Labour won such a landslide in May.

People can see that British Airways is extremely profitable. They can see that it has pots of money to spend on redesigning its planes as it drops the Union Flag. They are ready to believe that BA is practising a heavy-handed style that wants a decisive shift away from partnership with employees to a one-sided relationship where management has a free rein. They can recognise the divide-and-rule approach of a company that deliberately encourages a breakaway union. They can see the lack of support from other companies for its management style. In short, one of Britain's quality blue-chip companies is in danger of repositioning itself as confrontational bullyboy.

Such an image makes dubious commercial sense for any airline trying to attract passengers. Despite the claims of the adverts, one airline is much like another. It gets you from A to B as quickly as possible. There is normally a choice of carrier, and there is often little to choose between them. The reputation of BA's cabin staff has always been a big plus for the company. Its position as Britain's unofficial national carrier has always given it an advantage with customers. Yet it risks throwing this all away in pursuit of the doubtful advantages of breaking the union while destroying staff morale and commitment.

If this were simply a straightforward disagreement between one employer and its workforce, then it is extremely unlikely that the TUC would become involved in the way we have with this strike. Such disagreements are eventually resolved by talks. Relationships normally heal fairly quickly afterwards.

Indeed, I am always keen to talk of partnership. Just as the Cold War is over, so is the class war. Companies and their workforces have more in common than that which divides them, and I have no hesitation in telling unions and employees that they should never forget this even in the middle of disputes.

Confrontation may have been a catchword for the 1980s, but partnership must be the watchword for the millennium and beyond. My message to Government, unions and employers is that unions now want to be part of the solution, not part of the problem. It is no coincidence that 44 out of the top 50 British companies recognise unions. It is not the unionised companies that are holding Britain back. The firms that refuse to meet the challenge of dealing with their employees on equal terms are often those that fail to meet the challenge of a rapidly changing world in other respects.

This is what makes BA's hidden agenda so depressing. Even if the airline is successful in its strategy, it will be as a result of having broken the morale of its workforce.

This is why the TUC is giving its full support to the TGWU. We have informed trade unions throughout the world of this dispute and asked them to take appropriate action. We are also calling for consumers to boycott BA.

The net result will be to hit British Airways hard. The last thing I want to see is a weaker company. I want to go back to paying tribute to its success. Even now, it is not too late for BA and the TGWU to return to the negotiating table with open minds, no preconditions and copies of the agreement they want to discuss.

The author is the General Secretary of the TUC.



Payment by degrees

Tuition fees of £1,000 a year will hit the middle classes but liberate universities

We are about to see the colour of the Blair Government's convictions. We are to see Socialism itself stung by the rich, squawk and shudder the shires. A tax is on its way that did not appear in the Labour manifesto or in the Budget, a tax that dared not speak its name. It is a tax inconceivable to Tony Blair's predecessors, a tax from which Margaret Thatcher shied in horror. Presented with it on a plate last year, the then Education Secretary, Gillian Shephard, screamed and showed it to her opposite number, David Blunkett. He screamed. They both clung to nanny, namely Sir Ron Dearing, who promised to protect them from the tax until after the election.

The election is gone and nanny is standing in the doorway. This month he will tell Mr Blunkett that he must make students pay tuition fees at British universities. The finger of history has fallen on Mr Blunkett. He must end the glorious postwar tradition of free higher education. Students, or their parents, will have to pay some £3,000 for a three-year course, over and above living costs. Another citadel of the welfare state falls to the dark forces of the Treasury. The citadel may have gilded battlements and ivory turrets, but for decades Labour politicians have been saying that higher education must be free to all. Now principle must bow to necessity, and under a Labour Government. The harlot Irony takes another turn on stage.

When I was an undergraduate nobody thought of fees. They were philistine American things, impoverishing parents and loading students with debt. We expected a grateful state to pay for our university education, a state that recognised our talent and anticipated our contribution to the public weal. We cheekily added a request for our costs of living. It was more fun to study away from home. My own grant contrived to finance, as I recall, not only a reasonable lifestyle but a holiday abroad and a share in a near-lethal motor car. Students lived high on the hog of the taxpayer. Universities might still be mostly for the middle class, but for the middle class to pay would seem deliberately to exclude the poor. It would be most troubling to the bourgeois conscience.

The cracks in this wall of smugness came with the erosion of the maintenance allowance in the 1980s. This grant (now averaging roughly £2,000 a year) is barely half what it was worth in 1980. A third of parents must now contribute some or all of the means-tested allowance, and a half of all students take out a loan. It costs an average of £4,500 to maintain a student at a British university, considerably more in London. Even Labour, which bitterly opposed loans at first, has accepted them as a fact of university life. The state offers no cost-of-living grants for school pupils. Those lucky enough to make it to university — two-thirds of whom are considered "middle-class" — can reasonably be expected to pick up part or all of the living costs.

Tuition fees are a different matter. Tuition is not dig, beer and discos. It is education, high learning, communing with the spirits of the ancients. Such activity, so it was thought, should not be sullied by an exchange of lucre. Neither Labour nor Tories have yet been able to stomach the idea that any corner of British education should be fee-paying. Neither party mentioned fees in their manifestos, sticking to the Shephard-Blunkett pact of "waiting for Dearing". Top-up fees had been mooted by a few macho universities, such as Birmingham and London. So the black cloud steadily gathers. Government spending per student had declined by a quarter last year compared with 1990, a fall emphasised by officials as a "rise in productivity". The same fall (or rise) is budgeted over the next five years.

Riding the white horse of "education, education, education", Mr Blunkett boasted an extra £335 million for his department last week in his Budget coup. But every penny was for schools. He forgot the lobby he joined in December 1995, savaging his predecessor for likewise "giving [to schools] with one hand and taking [from universities] with the other". O tempora! O mores! The universities are entitled to feel friendless. They believe they are heading for the fate of those on the Continent, being forced to dumb down so politicians can claim rising student numbers at no

extra cost. Institutions of world renown face a future as mere lecturing academies, packing students into large classes and with no personal tuition.

Hence the unthinkable must be more than thought, it must be done. Later this month Sir Ron will report — unless the political censors get at him first. He will say what Mrs Shephard and Mr Blunkett could have agreed last year, that students must pay fees, or university standards will fall. He will say that going to a British university should be priced at roughly £1,000 a year, in addition to maintenance. That is only a quarter of the tuition cost of an arts course, far less for science, medicine or engineering. This would nonetheless make the total cost to the "consumer" of tuition and maintenance in the region of £5,500 a year, or £16,500 for a three-year course. In London the total could be nearer £20,000. With interest added, this is approaching transatlantic levels of expense. A four-year course at an American state university costs an average of £34,000.

At this point, Dearing merely offers options. Should the fee be £1,000 a year across the board, he asks, or perhaps differentiated by subject? There is no reason why the state should subsidise expensive courses in medicine and dentistry where the earning power of graduates — and their ability to repay — is high. But is there any more reason for cross-subsidy in pure science and engineering, where the jobs market is weak and student demand correspondingly low. Recent surveys have shown the biggest earnings go to lawyers, accountants and economists, whose courses come relatively cheap. The case for differentiation is overwhelming, and to hell with sentiment.

Dearing will be no more specific about repayment. Almost half of students now take out loans to cover maintenance, despite the loans being on tough, mortgage-style terms. Add in £1,000-a-year of fees and students with no parental support could face a

heavy debt on graduation. Far fewer women graduates remain in paid employment than men. Even with a "stop the clock" income-related repayment, they would carry a reverse dowry into motherhood. Perhaps this is no bad thing: young people should think seriously before imposing on themselves and the state the costs of higher education.

Another option offered by Dearing is of a graduate tax-coding, either one that expires when the debt is repaid, or a much smaller one for life. Such is the financial benefit of graduate status, so it is argued, that all who have enjoyed a university education should pay something back while they can afford it.

Subsidised higher education has long been the most indefensible middle-class subsidy in Britain. A system devised to give the poor access to higher education has barely increased the percentage of poorer students at university. This remains as it was 20 years ago at roughly one-third, albeit of a higher total of students. There is no evidence that America's loans-based universities are more socially exclusive (or yield a worse-educated workforce). There is no evidence that Australia's new loans scheme has cut the numbers of poorer students. This overdue debate is still fogged by prejudice.

A grander battle will be fought elsewhere. The money generated by fees could be large, in theory £10 million a year to a university with 10,000 students. But that means ensuring that universities receive the money. This implies a fee-plus-loan scheme tailored to each institution, not invented like the present loan scheme by officials in Whitehall. Universities must have at least the bulk of this new money, to shape their courses to the student market place, not to the (science-obsessed) manpower planners who control university finance at present.

Fees should liberate universities from centralised control. They should be freed to charge more for higher quality teaching, to reverse the dumbing down of a decade of "more means worse". When private citizens give their fee to teachers, that fee should convey expectations and reverse obligations. It is a bond that must be honoured. Consumers, not governments, are the ones who should demand value for money from higher education. Fees offer them a chance.

Simon Jenkins

Night out

ON Friday night, President Nelson Mandela will stay at Glympton House, on the Oxfordshire estate belonging to Prince Bandar, the Saudi Ambassador to the United States and a cousin of King Fahd. It will be just a short drive from Oxford, where Mandela will be giving a speech at the Sheldonian Theatre organised by the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies, followed by dinner with the Prince of Wales, the patron of the centre, at Wadhams College.

His stay at Bandar's estate, bought from the fallen Australian businessman Alan Bond, may



Prince Bandar's Glympton House: overnight stay for Mandela



registrars of the centre. Asked if there was any special reason why Mandela should choose an Islamic centre to speak at, he says: "I simply don't know."

The centre protests further ignorance on the subject of Bandar's financial contribution and Mandela's stay at Glympton. The High Commission is a little more forthcoming, saying "the stay at Glympton is one of the more private aspects of Mandela's visit".

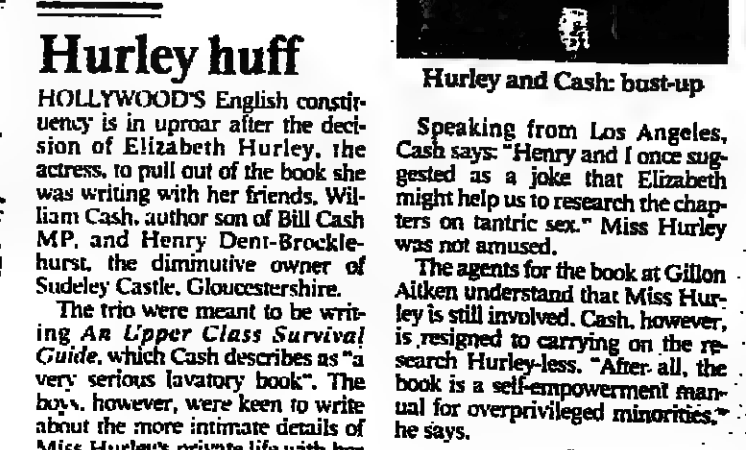
They are hard men in the family of 83-year-old Michael Foot, former leader of the Labour Party and the subject of next week's BBC2 documentary, *Labour's Old Romantic*. Interviewed for the programme, Foot's nephew, the Private Eye columnist Paul Foot says of his uncle's oratorical prowess: "His supremely intellectual form of argument is simply to shout

'balls' as loudly as possible"

Cup winners

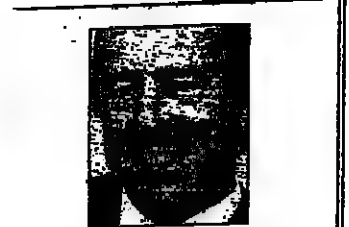
THE Brazilian football federation has high hopes for the sale at Sotheby's on Friday of the copy of the Jules Rimet World Cup trophy. Brazil won the original cup outright when they took the title for the third time in 1970 with Pelé, Jairzinho and company in Mexico. It was then stolen from their offices and never recovered.

The cops, up for auction is the



Stop complaining, Brenda. BA got us here, didn't they?

Alan Coren



Yoihs, tally-ho! And up the ants

Tomorrow is a big day for Britain. It is a big day because tomorrow, 100,000 Britons will converge on the capital of Britain in protest against the threat to the rest of it, and they did not do that for the last big day for Britain, which was the day the Chinese snatched up the British Empire. One hundred thousand Britons did not converge on the capital to protest against that, which shows you just how big a day tomorrow is.

I shall not converge with them, mind — though I may well throw open the attic sash to find out how the convergence is going, for if the anguished chorus succeeds in chanting its way, however faintly, from Hyde Park to Crickwood, I shall know that it is going very well indeed — because, despite the fact that I want their protest to succeed, I should not want my presence to give anyone the wrong idea. I want their protest to succeed for a reason very different from theirs. They want to stop the enactment of the Wild Mammals (Hunting With Dogs) Bill, because it will mean the end of foxhunting, and with it the passing of a culture and an economy crucial to rural Britain. I want to stop the Bill because it will mean the end of anti-foxhunting, and with it the passing of a culture and an economy crucial to rural Britain.

From 1977 to 1988 I owned a cottage in the heart of the New Forest, which is to say, as Jorrocks might, the Teart of Hampshire Tunting. I and my family rode, though we did not hunt, because we had very strong convictions against it, the prime among these being that none of us wanted to spend the rest of our lives in plaster. We did, however, spend every week-end and summer carefully, very occasionally breaking into a brief, circumspect pallop if the terrain was very flat and the horse was very old, which was how we came into regular contact with the vast numbers of abolitionists who, during the hunting season, would descend upon every last acre of the forest to pursue their passion.

They were an integral part of rural Britain. Drawn, contrary to the hunting fraternity's blinkered prejudice, from every class and walk of life — nobles in Barbours, blokes in rally jackets, wrinkles in support hose, kids in baseball caps, bright and dim, rich and poor, from every corner of the quondam — they were a splendid sight on a crisp autumn morning, as they sprang suddenly from bracken-covered cover and hurled out of the wastidy mist, waving their banners, whistling their warlike, tooting their horns, and hollering their traditional rallying cries.

And, once assured that we were not only unhunting folk but also ignorant of almost everything about the countryside, they proved to be invaluable teachers. They had a much greater knowledge of the forest's flora, fauna, and more than our hunting neighbours, at whose chic parties the braying was largely of bond-dealing and farming-subsidies and Tuscan wine in adventure, more yet to the point, their own catering relied either on Range Rover — loads of Fortnum swishery brought down for the weekend or banquets-on-wheels by fashionable metropolitan cooks, while the less well-heeled hunters shopped in the supermarkets and delicatessens of Salisbury, whose comestible firepower would have done even more to destroy the village shop and its invaluable post office, were it not for the patronage of these precious rural British obsolescences by the hundreds of abolitionists who depended on them for food, drink, wiletries, logs, newspapers, candles, and all the other requisites of nomadic life.

Likewise, that other increasingly shaky institution of bucolic Britain, the country pub: hunters did not patronise pubs, they converged at some private manor for stirrup cups, and returned there for colour-coordinated pink gins when the fox was over the yardarm, leaving the pubs' survival to jolly abolitionists trudging back thirsty after the day's long shout. After which they would congregate around untemper fires flickering in the forest night, to sing traditional British folk songs to a small guitar, heirs to the long, honoured and greenly radical line of Alan-a-Dale.

That is why I pray for the success of tomorrow's protest. Call me a nostalgic old reactionary if you will, but I tell you there is far more at moral risk here than the fox.

P-H-S



MASTERLY INACTION

The Bank must not feed the speculators by raising interest rates

Tomorrow at noon, three officials of the Bank of England plus two advisers will announce a decision which will have much more effect than Gordon Brown's Budget on the British economy in the year ahead. If the Bank decides to raise interest rates for the third time in three months, it will play directly into the hands of the currency speculators who are now making as much money by buying sterling as they did by selling it on Black Wednesday. The pound will shoot upwards and British exporters will have to start sacking workers and cancelling investment plans.

If, on the other hand, the Monetary Policy Committee decides to delay any action until its next monthly meeting, it will have a rare chance to wrong-foot speculators and perhaps even partly to reverse the malignant hardening of the pound. The Bank would still be in a position to raise interest rates in the months ahead and might be right to do so. But by delaying it would have shown that it takes seriously both sides of the dual responsibility conferred on it by the Government: "to deliver price stability and, without prejudice to this objective, to support the Government's economic policy, including its objectives for growth and employment."

If the Bank were to send this signal, Britain's industrialists would be wise to persist with their long-range plans, regardless of temporary setbacks. For Britain might then be on the way to creating the kind of benign environment of low inflation, full employment and robust growth maintained in America by the pragmatic monetary policy of the Federal Reserve Board.

The timing of a quarter-point change in interest rates would not normally be so significant. But conditions are far from normal today. Currency markets are in a speculative frenzy after the Budget, which City analysts interpreted as an open invitation to an inflationary boom.

This interpretation is probably wrong. Inflation remains remarkably subdued. There

was panic in the City over yesterday's small increase in retail prices. But roughly half of this was due to a weather-related jump in the price of food.

If Britain were measuring prices on the harmonised basis proposed by the European Commission for future members of EMU, underlying inflation would be only 1.6 per cent, instead of the 2.7 per cent reported yesterday. Manufacturing output and orders are falling. Building society windfalls may bring forward purchases of furniture and appliances, but this could be mirrored by falling sales of these same items next year. On top of this, the Chancellor has presented a modestly deflationary Budget. And most importantly, the 20 per cent jump in sterling guarantees that the squeeze both on industry and inflation will intensify.

The impression of a clash between the fiscal and monetary authorities frequently causes currencies to become overvalued and gives central bank independence a bad name. By refusing to cast a vote of no confidence in the Budget, the Bank could prove that it is a pragmatic institution which recognises the deflationary effects of a strong exchange rate, without in any way committing itself to the futile and potentially inflationary defence of a particular target for the pound.

If instead the Bank opts for a rushed decision to raise interest rates tomorrow, it will create a one-way bet for speculators in sterling, by showing that it is completely oblivious to sterling's deflationary effects. It will then bear the full responsibility for the economic damage that results. In voting tomorrow, the MPC's independent members should remember that they were appointed to be independent. The Bank officials should recall the lesson of the ERM, the gold standard and the devaluations of 1967 and 1949: in monetary politics there is no such thing as an irreversible decision. If the Bank ruins the economy in exercising the powers it has been given, these powers could just as suddenly be taken away.

MODERN MEXICO

Free trade has proved the catalyst for political reform

In a year of dramatic results, the outcome of the mid-term elections in Mexico must rank as one of the most remarkable. The Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI), which has held almost all Mexican political offices of any consequence since 1929, suffered a severe setback at the polls. Final returns yesterday confirmed that the party would no longer command a majority in the Chamber of Deputies. Furthermore, Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, leader of the left-wing Democratic Revolutionary Party (PRD), comfortably won the contest for Mayor of Mexico City. The other main opposition bloc, the centre-right National Action Party (PAN), also made a significant advance.

The unpopularity of the ruling party is understandable. The sudden collapse of the Mexican peso in December 1994 produced two years of unparalleled austerity. The discovery of deep corruption, including elements related to narcotics interests, under former President Carlos Salinas, stunned even the more cynical observers of Latin American politics. The current President, Ernesto Zedillo, has encountered enormous difficulties in imposing his authority either on his own party or in southern Mexico, especially Chiapas, where guerrilla activity by determined, if erratic, rebels persists.

In the past none of these problems would have mattered. The PRI would have used its control over the machinery of Mexico's elections to ensure that the right result emerged from the ballot boxes regardless of what the voters put in. In the 1988 presidential contest the new Mayor of Mexico City appeared set for victory over Mr Salinas when a sudden computer failure

stopped the count. When the process restarted the votes switched direction.

This election, by contrast, was remarkably fair. An independent Federal Election Institute prevented interference at the polling stations. Strict controls over campaign finance and careful scrutiny of the state-controlled media ensured that more subtle forms of bias did not operate. President Zedillo accepted defeat with good grace. Mr Cárdenas was similarly magnanimous in response.

None of this would have been likely without the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the United States, Canada, and Mexico that took effect three years ago. Mexico's increasingly technocratic leadership sought that pact because by the late 1980s they had come to realise that their highly protected economy — dominated by the oil sector — could not continue in that fashion. The emigration of skilled labour had become a national crisis. A determined programme of mass deregulation and privatisation under Mr Salinas persuaded Presidents Bush and Clinton to embrace their southern neighbour.

An informal but essential part of that package, Washington made clear, was that past practices that made a mockery of Mexican democracy would have to be abandoned. That price was conceded by the PRI leadership. It led to the legislation passed last year that ensured a proper election on this occasion. The precise impact of NAFTA on Mexico's short-term economic outlook remains a matter of contention although the medium-term effect can only be advantageous. The political consequences have already been powerfully demonstrated.

REHEARSE THE PLAYERS

The most modern actors still need a grounding in the classics

That gifted voice-coach, Hamlet, had sound advice for Elsinore's players. They were not to tear passion to tatters and split the ears of the groundlings but to "speak the speech trippingly on the tongue". History is packed with similar remonstrance. The admirers of Kean thought Kemble spoke and moved "like a man in armour", while Kemble's fans found Kean brash and vulgar. Adrian Noble, artistic director of the RSC, now tells us that our drama schools are producing actors with little understanding of the Elizabethans and less ability to handle their verse. His strictures stand in a long tradition.

But this is more than just another battle in the war between different generations and changing styles of acting. Many secondary schools are failing to give our children a grounding in the theatrical classics and, with drama barely on the national curriculum, deafness to Shakespeare is likely to worsen. Drama-school principals increasingly feel obliged to tilt training towards television, because that is where the work is. Some of them say that their students are more interested in the cinema than the theatre, and that their models are Pacino and de Niro, not stage actors. Moreover, regional theatres no longer have permanent companies and can seldom afford to mount Elizabethan work with large casts. Thus the on-the-job training that an earlier generation took for granted barely exists.

Noble's diagnosis, then, is as accurate as it is disturbing. The academics could do far

more to ensure that our classic theatre is not surrendered to Method mumble and ersatz Californians. But the RSC is not without blame itself. Sir Peter Hall, who created the company in 1961, has himself criticised some of its directors and actors for neglecting Hamlet's instructions. Instead of speaking the speech trippingly, and acknowledging the rhythms of Elizabethan verse, performers pack their words with a specious and slovenly realism. Shakespeare, the poet of the human heart, dwindles into Shakespeare the Hamptstead psychologist.

Modern-dress productions, now more common than traditional ones, exacerbate the trend. They encourage the mundane. It is hard for a Lear in a hospital straitjacket or a Shylock in a City bowler to catch the intricate energies of Shakespeare's poetry. Yet who wants heritage Bard in respectful doublet-and-hose? The challenge is to ensure that the old words dance and the old plays are as fresh for us as they were for our ancestors; and it is one which our academics and directors are failing to confront.

There is no reason yet to despair. Nobody saw Stephen Dillane in Sir Peter's production of Hamlet or Emma Fielding as Viola in the recent RSC Twelfth Night could be without hope. But we badly need more young performers exceptional enough to tackle the obstacle course ahead of them and more directors able to help them over it. What is at stake is the very survival of Shakespeare as a living force.

England's role in devolution debate

From Mr Simon Chapman

Sir, Your report (News in brief, later editions, July 2) that the Prime Minister is to write to all Labour Party members in Wales to urge them to support his devolution proposals.

The Government must not be allowed to get away with continuing to present the devolution debate as being relevant only to those living in Scotland and Wales and their MPs. The constitutional importance of devolution extends far beyond that. Not only are expatriates from both countries affected; so also is that nation conspicuous by its absence from Government's plans: the English.

England has fewer MPs per voter than either Scotland or Wales. She receives less public expenditure per head than either Scotland and Wales. That is tricky enough to justify under the present system. It becomes rather harder if Scotland and Wales are to have a greater say in their own government yet still retain the same powers in relation to English affairs.

The West Lothian question about inequality of representation can be answered: let the Scots have their assembly if they want it, but let them also accept the consequences of that choice. Fair-minded Scots must surely accept that if they are to have their own Parliament, their representation at Westminster should be reduced into line with that of the English.

Those MPs they have should also be restricted in the matters on which they can speak and vote. If the Scottish Parliament controls Scotland's education, Scottish MPs should have no power over England's education. That is the fair choice to offer in a referendum, not only to the Scots and Welsh, but also to the English.

But although the West Lothian question can be answered, others remain. For example: are the new assemblies to be funded and administered solely at the expense of Wales and Scotland, or will the English taxpayer be denied a say about devolution but still be expected to help pay for its consequences?

It is the clear duty of all English MPs, whatever their party, to represent the interests of their own constituents in this debate. They must force the Government to justify its plans not only to Scotland and Wales, but also to England.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CHAPMAN,
Old Beth House,
Milland, Liphook, Hampshire.
July 4.

Church and disabled

From the Reverend Tom Connelly,
Director of the Catholic Media Office

Sir, May I clarify the position of the Roman Catholic Church as to the rights and responsibilities of people with special needs, following your report headed (early editions) "Protests to Vatican after disabled urged to avoid sex" (July 2).

The Catholic Church upholds the absolute right of any disabled person to enter into the married state as long as the normal requirements are met (ie, those to be married must be able to give consent to the bond).

Nowhere in the teaching of the Church is it ever stated that people living with a handicap should abstain from sex, still less that they should "consider sterilisation".

Indeed in his Apostolic Exhortation, *Familiaris Consortio*, Pope John Paul expressly opposes any pressure applied to married couples, from whatever source, to consider sterilisation. Such pressure, he writes, "must be altogether condemned and forcefully rejected".

Rather, the Catholic Church has been at the forefront of campaigning for the rights of those with special needs — taking an active role in opposing abortion on the grounds of suspected handicap and opposing euthanasia for those deemed to have a poor quality of life.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CONNELLY,
Director,
Catholic Media Office,
5 St Vincent Place, Glasgow 1.
July 4.

'Sybaritic' bishops

From Lord Bridge of Harwich

Sir, A letter published today under the headline "Show me these 'sybaritic' bishops" attributes to the report of the review group under my chairmanship (*Synodical Government in the Church of England*) a reference to "chauffeur-driven bishops with lavish lifestyles and large staffs". The lifestyle of bishops was not within our terms of reference.

The language complained of comes from the report (June 30) by your religion correspondent, Ruth Gledhill. Ms Gledhill, in the course of discussing our report, interpolates her own comment that: "The review comes as concern grows at the cost of the chauffeur-driven lifestyles and large staff enjoyed by some bishops".

Whatever authority Ms Gledhill may have had for her statement, it was not derived from anything in our report.

Yours faithfully,
BRIDGE OF HARWICH,
House of Lords.
July 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

'Realpolitik' of Amsterdam treaty

From the Shadow Foreign Secretary

Sir, Sir Christopher Chataway (letter, July 5) asks why I "tolerate our continuing membership of the EU". The answer is that I think we benefit from our membership and have an important part to play in the evolution of a union of nation states which will work and which will last.

If we are to fulfil this role effectively we must point out the dangers that arise if the union develops in a different way.

All its member states are signatories to the United Nations covenant on human rights and the European Convention on Human Rights. It is therefore legitimate to ask why it is necessary to import human rights provisions into the Treaty of Amsterdam.

But if it is necessary, surely the right response to any member state that is in breach of its human rights obligations is to suspend that state's membership or to expel it, not to require it to remain a member but suspend its voting rights so that the views of the other member states on any issue could be imposed upon it.

As to the extension of qualified majority voting and the simultaneous increase in the power of veto for the European Parliament raised by your other correspondents (letters, July 5 and 7), the realpolitik of the European Union depends on the making of deals based on the power of some to block the desires of others. The European Parliament, after Amsterdam, will be

more powerful; the member states less. This will not help to create the union of nation states which represents the best way forward for Britain and for Europe.

That is why the British people, like the Danes, should be allowed their say on the Amsterdam treaty before it is ratified.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HOWARD,
House of Commons,
July 6.

From Mr George Thomas

Sir, Sir Christopher Chataway writes from the Garrick Club to question whether Mr Howard really wants "to be in any club with" foreigners of the EU.

The EU is not a club. It is a dynamic political organisation run by politicians of whose ambitions the people are right to be suspicious. The people of this, or any other country, are right to believe that the defence of "the principles of liberty, democracy, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms" are best kept in their own hands rather than delegated to a "club" most of whose members have, within the last few decades, shown less than enthusiastic respect for these principles.

Yours faithfully,
G. THOMAS,
17 Campden Hill Square, W8.
July 5.

Improving aid policy

From Mr Bill Linton

Sir, It might arguably be true that part of the answer to why Africa has got poorer over the last few years is that "much aid... perversely stacked the odds against the market" (leading article, July 2; see also letters, July 3) — though it is not a view I would support myself — but it is such a small part of the answer as to be irrelevant.

The baleful effects of the debt crisis on the one hand and steadily worsening terms of trade on the other are the primary reasons why so much of Africa is still in "the intensive-care ward". This is the market perversely stacking the odds against aid, not the other way round.

Only in the last few months has a worthwhile initiative to tackle the debt crisis finally emerged: the Highly Indebted Poor Country Initiative, put forward by World Bank President James Wolfensohn with the (somewhat reluctant) support of the International Monetary Fund.

The initiative is flawed, particularly in terms of the length of time which must elapse before any poor country can benefit from it, but it represents for the first time a genuine commitment to solving the problem.

If the flaws can be ironed out, then Africa could at last begin to compete on something like level terms with the

rest of the world, regardless of what kind of aid it got from us.

Yours faithfully,
BILL LINTON,
39a Fox Lane,
Palmer Green, N13.
July 3.

From Mr Tim Symonds

Sir, Mr D. John Shaw, recent Head of the UN World Food Programme Policy Affairs Service (letter, July 3), is clearly right when he states: "The poor themselves, female and male, should be intimately involved in the process of removing poverty."

May I go one step further, as someone who has lived in developing countries as far back as Kenya in Mau Mau times, and state that unless women in particular become decision-makers and leaders at every senior level, in very large numbers, neither poverty nor endemic conflict are going to be solved.

The UK Secretary of State for International Development is ideally placed to help develop parity democracy on four if not five continents, with results I may not live to see but believe will make for a far, far better millennium for everyone.

Yours faithfully,
TIM SYMONDS,
46 Portland Place, W1.
July 3.

The marchers

From Brigadier Robin Rhoderick-Jones

Sir, On Thursday, some 100,000 people are expected to assemble in Hyde Park to protest against proposals to ban hunting with hounds and the extended threat to other country sports and the tens of thousands of jobs which attend them. Many of those people will have walked from all corners of the United Kingdom; most will travel by coach and train. Last weekend a similar number converged on the capital to celebrate Gay Pride.

One of the surprising by-products of these two events is that *The Archers* ("An everyday story of countryfolk") has run an extended storyline culminating in the landlord of the Cat and Fiddle — and captain of the Ambridge

cricket team — deserting his team members (with predictably dire results) and joining Gay Pride with his partner. There has, however, at the time of writing, been absolutely no mention of the Countryside March, despite the fact that several characters hunt or have hunted, many more shoot and fish, some are dependent on such activities for their livelihood and Eddie Grundy and his family are enthusiastic ferreters.

Isn't this rather odd? Or does it display a fondly nurtured wish of the writers and editor of the programme to turn Ambridge into a Finsbury Park with that and a village green?

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Middle St Andrew's Wood,
Dulford, Cullompton, Devon.
July 8.

New Tory policy?

From Mr Michael Gibbon

Sir, Mr Nigel Evans, MP, the Conservative frontbench spokesman on the constitution (letter, July 2), complains that the meeting of the Welsh Grand Committee held in Mold was a "sham" because the committee has no Conservative members, even though 317,000 people in Wales had voted Conservative on May 1.

I hadn't realised that proportional representation was now Conservative Party policy. There again, I don't imagine he's seeking to say that the general election was a "sham" just because the Conservatives did not win any seats in Wales.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL GIBBON,
97 Hemmingsford Road,
Islington, N1.
July 2.

Stewart's home town

From Dr Cathy S. Baker

Sir, James Stewart was born in my home town of Indiana, Pennsylvania, not Indiana the State (obituary, July 4). Jimmy's father owned a hardware store rather than a china shop, which was located on the main street of the town about three blocks from Vinegar Hill.

I remember during the early 1950s Mr Stewart Sr displayed Jimmy's awards and photographs in the shop window. Today, a statue of Jimmy Stewart stands in front of the Indiana County courthouse not far from where Stewart's Hardware Store once stood.

Yours faithfully,
CATHERINE S. BAKER,
98 Anthony Road,
Woodside Green, SE25.
gbd3@student.open.ac.uk
July 7.

letters@the-times.co.uk

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Open house — and garden — at No 10

From Mr Edmund Gray

Sir, It is good news that the Prime Minister is to open 10 Downing Street, and particularly its garden, to non-political guests on a wider scale (report, July 2; letter, July 7). I suggest that the rather skimpy garden would be greatly enhanced for wider hospitality if it incorporated the lawn towards Horse Guards Road.

This lawn has never been of much use to the public and has been cordoned off for security reasons for a number of years. Extending the wall of No 10 around it would actually do more to protect the house from terrorist attack than the Downing Street gates, since the sensitive parts face that way.

The grandiose gates, one cannot help thinking, were erected as much to serve Margaret Thatcher's White House pretensions, and to facilitate White House-style open-air press conferences, as for security reasons. They should at least bear a notice specifying the legal basis for suspending the right of way through Downing Street and promising its restoration as soon as the terrorist threat recedes. The more distant prospect of re-opening the street the more necessary is a permanent reminder of our proud democratic tradition that the Prime Minister lives in an ordinary street, in a house of ordinary appearance, not in a palace behind railings.

In her article of June 12, Sue Cameron suggests that it is improper for the doorkeeper at No 10 to carry the Blair's shopping upstairs. This is incorrect. The house was given by George II to Walpole and his successors as First Lord of the Treasury for their "use and habitation", maintained from the outset at public expense.

Space for significant numbers of officials was only assigned by Prime Ministers in comparatively recent times, for their own convenience, and any Prime Minister wishing to reclaim rooms for private "habitation" would be entitled to do so.

It is a pity that such a distinct separation of the private rooms from the rest of the house was permitted by Macmillan when the over-extensive renovation of 1959-60 was carried out, leading to the misconception of a "flat" within an "office".

Yours faithfully,
EDMUND GRAY,
(Author, *The British House*, Richard Cohen Books, 1994),
85a Stockwell Park Road, SW9,
July 7.

Stratford's heyday

From Mr Keith Brace

Sir, Benedict Nightingale's description of the Stratford-upon-Avon theatre productions before Sir Peter Hall took over in 1960 as "up-market summer stock" is, in my view, unwarranted (Arts, "Benefit of hindsight", June 30).

Stratford pre-1960 — under Barry Jackson, Anthony Quayle and Glen Byam Shaw — was anything but "summer stock". It presented a programme of seven Shakespearean productions from April to just before Christmas, kept its audience with a superb winter season of opera, ballet and new pre-West End plays, and started again in April.

It was in no way "up-market". From my experience as a regular playgoer, the very mixed audience came from the Stratford area, Birmingham and all over the Midlands. People also came from much further away because they could, at that time, spend a week in Stratford and see all seven productions.

"Summer stock" hardly describes Peter Brook's *Love's Labour's Lost* (1946); the Helpmann/Scotfield Hamlet (1948); Brook's *Measure for Measure* (1950) and his *Titus Andronicus* (1955), with Olivier as Titus (and in the same year as Macbeth and Malvolio); and Peter Hall's *Coriolanus*, with Olivier in the title role (1959).

Yours sincerely,
KEITH BRACE,
Greenbank,
Frogmore Road, Snitterfield,
Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire,
July 1.

Sign-off of the times

From Mr David Staples

Sir, Mr Adrian Dodd-Noble suggests (letter, July 3) the "your obedient servant" is perhaps an unsatisfactory closing for an e-mail.

Could I be the first to conclude an e-pistle to the editor with a "smiley"?

Yours,
DAVID T. STAPLES,
St Luke's Church,
42 Mayfield Road, N8,
dstaples@ipc-lon.com
July 3.

From Mr Henry Robinson

Sir, The march of technology must not be allowed to erode courtesy and civilisation. In a civilised society, any written communication should be signed off with a suitably courteous salutation, whatever "petiquette" (letter, July 8) — or perhaps nerdiquest — may or may not require.

I remain, Sir, yours truly and electronically,
HENRY ROBINSON,
27 Redwing Road,
Clanfield, Waterlooville, Hampshire.
henryhsc@demo.co.uk
July 8.

OBITUARIES

PROFESSOR J. Z. YOUNG

Professor J. Z. Young, FRS, zoologist and Professor of Anatomy, University College London, 1945-74, died on July 4 aged 90. He was born on March 18, 1907.

John Zachary Young, or "JZ" as he was universally known, was one of the most distinguished and influential zoologists of his day. Much of his work, including his Reith lectures, concerned the anatomical basis of various brain functions. His career began at a time when being a zoologist meant studying animals at all levels, from the cellular to the behavioural, not forgetting their embryology, genetics and evolution. He gave vivid expression to this scope in his innovative textbooks *The Life of the Vertebrates* (1950) and *The Life of Mammals* (1957); perhaps unfortunately, the last of the trilogy was published as *An Introduction to the Study of Man* (1971). The impact of these books on undergraduates and medical students at the time was formidable.

Arguably even greater was the effect of his personality during tutorials and lectures, first as fellow and tutor at Magdalen College, Oxford, and later in London. What was the secret of his influence? It derived from a genuine, open-minded enthusiasm for the subject, together with an impatience to get on and do new things and understand more. He recognised no limits to what could and should be achieved in research and teaching.

John Zachary Young was educated at Marlborough and at Magdalen, where, holding a Demship, he began a classically successful academic career.



On graduating in zoology, he went as the 1928-29 Oxford Scholar to the zoological station in Naples, where he rediscovered the giant nerve fibres of the squid (the discovery had been made originally

by L. W. Williams in 1909). These fibres are so large that they later enabled the 1963 Nobel prizewinners A. L. Hodgkin and A. F. Huxley to insert an electrode inside the nerve to measure ionic flux during rest and activity. The propagation of an action po-

tential was explained in terms of ionic conductance changes — results of fundamental importance. During the Second World War, Young remained in Oxford to lead a group doing research into the mechanisms of degeneration and repair of injured nerve fibres.

and in 1945, at the remarkably early age of 38, he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society.

In the same year he was invited to head the Anatomy Department at University College London, being preferred to "Solly" Zuckerman. This upset the hidebound anatomists of London and the medical fraternity generally, since the appointment of a professor of anatomy who was not medically qualified was considered unthinkable. A small group manoeuvred for the appointment to be thrown out by the Academic Council of the University. It was, but University College was determined, and JZ was persuaded to apply formally. This time the innovators were more skilled. The appointment was finally confirmed at the end of 1945, though it was accompanied by a shower of protesting letters, some of them quite scurrilous. In *The Times* and various medical journals, the row rumbled on into the early 1950s, but by then JZ had begun transforming a moribund department into the major research and teaching centre for anatomy and cell biology that he left behind when he retired in 1974. Needless to say, his innovations had by then become widely imitated and admired, not just in London but internationally.

In his department, JZ promoted many kinds of research, especially on nervous systems. His own work was primarily anatomical, since he maintained — unfashionably — that understanding of the mechanisms of brains could not progress without a sound structural basis. This stance helped to rescue classical anatomy from its moribund background. In 1947, with help from the

Nuffield Foundation, he returned to Naples. His primary intention was to use the lobular organisation of the octopus's brain to explore the specialised functions of each lobe. In particular, he sought a neural basis for the mechanisms of memory. An early summary of his work and thoughts was given as the BBC Reith lectures for 1950, *Doubt and Certainty in Science*.

In succeeding years he returned every summer to Naples. He also published many papers and books, among them *The Anatomy of the Nervous System of Octopus Vulgaris* (1971) and *Philosophy and the Brain* (1987).

The diversity and magnitude of his achievements leave a great many people around the world in his debt. This debt was partially acknowledged by many honours and marks of recognition, among them a Royal Medal of the Royal Society (1957), an honorary DSc from Oxford (1979) and, rare for a scientist, an honorary fellowship of the British Academy.

During his retirement JZ continued to work on cephalopods, and returned to the Plymouth Marine Laboratory to follow up his very earliest research, on the autonomic nervous system of bony fish, as well as producing new editions of his textbooks. At the time of his death he was working on an entirely new book (with Marion Nixon), to be called *The Brains and Lives of Cephalopods*.

Young married first Phyllis Heaney, who died in 1967, and then Raymonde Parsons. She survives him, with a son and a daughter from his first marriage and a daughter from his second.

ANDRE HARRIS



Andre Harris, French documentary film-maker, died in Paris on June 8 aged 63. He was born in Nevers on July 13, 1933.

THE leading documentary-maker Andre Harris was an iconoclast in his approach to contemporary French history. He probed where others backed off, and this did not always suit the tightly controlled French state television network, the *Office de Radiodiffusion Television Francaise*, as it was known in the 1960s. In 1969, Harris and the director Marcel Ophüls produced *Le Chagrin et la Pitié*, a detailed, four-hour account of television of life in Vichy France.

It was not a flattering portrait of the times. It juxtaposed black-and-white archive footage from the war — some from Paris, some from the provincial city of Clermont Ferrand — with the testimony of those who lived through the events. It showed the wide public support for Marshal Pétain, the Vichy leader, and did not flinch from admitting the extent of collaboration with the Germans.

This theme ran counter to the postwar Gaullist line that the Resistance movement had been very widespread. The state television board banned the film as unpatriotic, and it was not shown on French television for a further 12 years, becoming in the process a *cause célèbre*.

This was the first time French film-makers had faced some of the darker aspects of the war. Harris said at the time that he and his generation wanted to know what had really taken place under the Germans. The film had a humble premiere in the Studio St. Andrew des Arts, a Left Bank art et essai cinema, and then on German and Swiss television, before finally being allowed onto French television in 1981.

A dubbed version had an art-house success in Britain, around Europe and in America, where Woody Allen gave it a plug in one of his movies. "You must see *Sorrow and Pity*," he told his film entourage. The film was a big step in France's slow process of facing up to the Vichy past, which has recently led to books on the wartime role of former President François Mitterrand.

Andre Harris began his career as a diplomatic correspondent on French radio in 1960. As political editor on

state television from 1963 to 1968, he was responsible for a number of fine documentaries about social issues.

However, the shockwaves from *Le Chagrin et la Pitié* led to his exclusion from state television in 1968, a "sentence" that was to last for 13 years. His next work, in 1972, did not please the Gaullist powers either. *Français, si vous sachiez* ("French, if you only knew") was an ambitious seven-hour series covering 50 years of French history, from the trenches of the First World War to the Algerian War of the 1950s and 1960s. The theme was the breakdown of France's national consensus.

Harris was back on state television in 1981, the year the Socialists under Mitterrand won power, and soon showed that his rebellious instinct was undimmed. He introduced a Saturday night "Right of Reply" show, a noisy slanging match between journalists and politicians which delighted half the country and scandalised the other half. He sought major reforms within French television and an end to what he called its "inward-looking and isolationist" nature. He lasted a year before being shot down, as much by his colleagues as by politicians. A job was found for him running France Media International, selling French programmes abroad.

Harris was a burly man with a habitually wry expression, who shunned Paris society and dinner parties, and who liked to shock with his outspokenness. He was a kind of lone ranger for many years within the state audiovisual system.

He worked closely for two decades with another independent producer, Alain de Sedouy. The two men also produced a number of successful, investigative books. Among these were works on the French Communist Party, French employers and the right wing in France. His last book, published this year, is a biting social study of his compatriots.

In recent years, Harris had flourished again on television by becoming programme director of the cultural channel La Sept, in 1989, and then occupying the same post at the Franco-German channel Arte, the only bi-national, bi-lingual channel of its kind in Europe — and one to which the Bonn and Paris governments are heavily committed.

He is survived by his wife and two sons.

LEN POUNTNEY

Len Pountney, hair transplant pioneer, died in Bournemouth on July 1 aged 84. He was born in London on February 6, 1913.

POP STARS, actors, foreign monarchs and even the more narcissistic breed of Labour MP were to be profoundly glad of Len Pountney's ability to repair the ravages of old age and disguise time's inevitable erosion of the human features. Many was the young woman out for a night at the palace de dance who was not to know that her apparently mustachioed and suave young partner was, in fact, a well-known businessman, past the prime of life and famed for his pink and bloated features and generous ration of secondary and tertiary chins.

Starting in a modest way as a hairdresser, Pountney graduated to trichology and later to plastic surgery, creating the Pountney clinic, whose familiar newspaper advertisements held out the promise of eternal youth. Although he effectively retired twenty years ago, the famous clinic in West London is still in the family.

The Shah of Iran was among Pountney's most celebrated clients. The aim was to transform him after his downfall from a haggard and greying septagenarian with re-

ceding and thinning hair into a dapper forty-year-old whose own mother would not have recognised him. Roman nose, wrinkles and furrowed brow were all to be consigned to the dustbin, while the prominent brown eyes would be transformed into the piercing blue of Nordic man, through the skilful use of contact lenses. In fact the Shah fell ill from cancer soon after going into exile and this ambitious manifesto could "never be carried through to a conclusion."

The reclusive billionaire Howard Hughes was another Pountney project, changing his appearance several times after visits by the master of disguise to his Park Lane hotel suite. Cheek padding, hair pieces, false eyebrows and plastic moulds on the nose knocked twenty years off the famously wrinkled visage, prompting its owner to ask Pountney: "You wouldn't happen to have some sex pills on you, too?"

For fun, Pountney even worked his magic on himself on occasions, transforming his bespectacled "English professional" features into something more rugged and transatlantic. A Londoner through and through, Pountney was born in Islington. In his youth he was an accomplished sportsman, becoming diving cham-



Pountney ready for duty in his clinic in Hounslow, West London

pion of London in 1922 and making it to the ABA semi-finals before giving up boxing at 21. The career which was to make his fortune did not occur to him until after the Second World War, during which he was an Army PT instructor. After demobilisation he was inspired by a magazine article

about the craft of the 18th-century wigmakers, to sink his capital of £300 in a barber's shop in Hounslow. In an austere postwar climate that was not in favour of undue adornment of the male person, he treated permanent-wave and blow-wave hairstyles for men and advertised them in hairdressing periodicals. Two

of these, the Be-bop and the DA (Duck's Arse), promptly became internationally known, and Pountney was soon in demand to stage hairdressing shows in Europe's capitals.

He eventually outgrew the small barber's shop and in 1958 founded the Harley Street Hair Clinic, where he began to specialise in hair transplants. Yet he was eventually to move back to Hounslow (convenient for Heathrow Airport and consequently a constant procession of wealthy visitors from overseas). There his establishment's operations soon expanded to cover all forms of cosmetic surgery.

The notion of disguise, for which he was to work up a huge clientele, dated from the Fifties when a pop star complained to him about his lack of privacy. Wigs, moustaches and other external aids were added to hair transplants, as a means of altering appearance. Pountney could boast the Great Train Robbers among his clients, and on one occa-

sion a grateful customer claimed that he had evaded detection in a police identification line-up after a visit to the Pountney clinic. Pountney was glad to hear that the man had gone "straight", after this deliverance.

The Pountney clinic — as did others that followed its lead — had its critics over the years, but Pountney was always honest with his customers about what a hair transplant could achieve in any specific situation.

The services he tried to render to the exiled Shah were widely reported at the time to have drawn threats from Iranian terrorists. Whatever the truth of this, from the 1980s onwards Pountney had a less "hands-on" involvement in the business, the day-to-day running of which was taken on by his son Roy. Len Pountney retired to Bournemouth, but until a few years ago he continued to hold weekly consultations at the clinic. He is survived by his wife Frances and his son.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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LORD'S

Of all the memories of Home which pull at the heartstrings of Englishmen in exile none, perhaps, is felt by so many or pulls harder than the memory of Lord's. To each, of course, there is his own private vision, conjured up by reminiscence of his own youth and his own "people". It may be a vision of English lane and tangled hedgerow, of the village church with its yew and crumbling tombstones, or of some lawn of ancient turf, tree-shaded, edged with bright flower-beds. Or it may be a stroller vision of parklands and clustered trees, of stable and kennel and gunroom and the hot smell of ripe fruit in the walled garden. Scots pines and dark heather; open downs with bright grass rippling in the wind; some secret cove where waves come tumbling over broken rocks; a stretch of trout-stream in the still of evening... The background has long since faded but these glimpses, these silhouettes, grow ever more vivid and seem to hold within themselves the significance of half a life

ON THIS DAY

July 9, 1928

A nostalgic fourth leader to stir the hearts of expatriates in the week of the University match.

and of everything that is Home. If these, the dearest memories of all, are peculiar and individual to each, others, only less intimate, are shared in common by many — visions of School and College, of great ceremonies and public places and, especially, of London.

To all alike there is something precious in the memory of London: of its theatres, its shops, its parks and those streets about St. James's and Mayfair which, when, as now, the Season is at its height, have, in spite of crowds and

turnout, a distinction and a restfulness not matched in any capital in the world. To many Epsom or Ascot calls, to others Henley and the quiet reaches of the River; but to more than all these combined is the appeal of Lord's. This week the hearts of a million Englishmen in all corners of the globe are turning longingly to the famous cricket ground. It is not necessary that a man should have been at Oxford or Cambridge, at Eton or Harrow. If he was not, friends of his boyhood were; and it is to Lord's that the returned exile goes eagerly, sure that the hours there will be fruitful of meetings with old acquaintances, grown now, perhaps, to Members of Parliament. King's Counsel, or Archdeacons. There is a beauty also, peculiar to it, in the scene itself, in the soothing expanse of turf with the white figures dotted in mid-field, ringed round with the thousands moved by the same emotion. And it is English as nothing else, perhaps in English: the greatest of all games, played in the best of settings and in the finest spirit.

Irish jokes, it seems, are no longer politically correct

Wanted: a minority safe to poke fun at

It's official. The Commission for Racial Equality has pronounced the Irish in Britain "a voice with an Irish accent" does not instantly conjure up happy pictures of Henry Kelly, Terry Wogan or Dr Anthony Clare. Anyway, no one is laughing now. The past weekend provided fresh examples that the island of Ireland, whatever its other blessings, has the misfortune to be in the north-west corner of Europe where the conflicting religious traditions of North and South are jammed up against each other like two plates of the Earth's crust.

So who can we laugh at? Not the Scots. As a leader in *The Times* last week pointed out, the Scottish accent, thanks to *Dr Finlay's Casebook* et al, is associated with good doctors. The Germans and French aren't funny any more. Nor are fat ladies, nor gays, nor dwarfs, nor imbeciles, nor mothers-in-law. In all cases politically incorrect, all are entitled to the right not to be stereotyped.

My suggestion? The Welsh. They are a safe bet because they have the essential requirements: natural wit, thick skins and, since the Post Office has removed the "p" from new postage stamps to satisfy the Welsh Language Board's plea that the Welsh word for pence begins with a "c" (for *ceiniog*, no outstanding grievance).

As some readers of this column may remember, I have no great enthusiasm for expensive attempts to prolong artificially the life of ancient languages. I have heard of a conference in Cardiff where someone had to be found to translate from Finnish into Welsh. Should independence follow devolution, and Catalonia, as it is rumoured, seek independence entry to the European Community, think what lies ahead. Earphones all round.

The new age of ethnicity, foretold by Professor Samuel Huntington, of Harvard, in a speech to the Harvard Club of London last week, raises infinite new possibilities for putting your foot in it. At a café in the Welsh Borders recently I sounded off intertemporally about schoolroom signs in that totally English-speaking area teaching pupils the Welsh words for simple common nouns. "How much better off they'd be learning French and German," I exclaimed, noticing too late the reddening face of the young man from BBC Wales opposite. He took issue.

He loved the Welsh language as he loved the Welsh countryside. His love was all the deeper — deeper — he continued sonorously, because he knew the name of every flower and every bird in his, and his land's, own language. I apologised, not adequately, for treading on his sensibilities out of my own prejudices (learnt at my Welsh mother-in-law's knee).

Then he leant forward and grinned. "Do you know the difference between the Italian Mafia and the Welsh Taffia?" he asked. "The Mafia make you an offer you can't refuse, and the Taffia make you an offer you can't understand."

Can the Orangemen make a joke like that about their most heartfelt beliefs? If only it were so. The ability of the Welsh to laugh at themselves was shown several years ago when they enjoyed even more than the rest of Britain *The Old Devils*, Kingsley Amis's savage satire on their fleshly foibles. BBC Wales investigated the phenomenon of national self-mockery once in an amusing documentary called *Dai Laughing*.

What would make Wales smile most of all is to make an impact on the national television networks in some form other than on-off such as *Cardiff Singer of the Year*. But the trend could go the other way. ITV's lingering Welshness will fade now that what used to be known as Harlech Television (for the Richard Burton franchise) has been sold to a much larger ITV company, United News and Media, which also owns Meridian and Anglia.

Meanwhile, BBC Wales struggles to make its dramatic mark in the gritty manner of its fellow Celts who pull in big audiences with *Cracker*, *Hamish Macbeth* and *Ballykissangel*. BBC Wales's recent drama series — *Drover's Gold* — has been only a moderate success on BBC1. Great hopes are riding on *Tiger Bay*, an eight-part serial set in Cardiff, which begins on BBC1 on July 21. The producer Glenda Jones promises a new vision of Wales — multiracial, urban, dockland local rubbing shoulders with yuppie professional — and not a sheep, a miner or a male-voice choir in sight.

Yet the fear lingers that there is a national prejudice against the Welsh that is no joke. Neil Kinnock, it is believed, did not get the job he wanted because of his accent. Against that must be set the growing popularity of the Welsh language, and evidence of its usefulness. William Hague has proved that an Englishman can advance his career prospects by joining the Taffia and learning Welsh.



BRENDA MADDOX



The Jones Griffiths picture, left, and the version that raised questions about whether photographers have control over copies inspired by their work



War of words over Army ad

A row between advertising agency Saatchi & Saatchi and the photographic agency, has ended in a truce. The latter has accepted a financial settlement after a row over a photograph used for a British Army recruitment campaign.

Saatchi, which holds the Army's account, had asked to use a photograph by Philip Jones Griffiths — one of Magnum's leading war photographers — of a dead soldier in Vietnam. Mr Jones Griffiths, a pacifist, declined. But his photograph was then recreated, using computers to impose a model's head on the torso.

In January, the ad appeared in *Loaded* magazine — whose readership is one of the target audiences for the British Army's recruitment campaign, aimed at 16 to 24-year-olds — bearing the message: "Dead or alive. How can you be sure?"

The ad was part of an award-winning recruitment campaign and was aimed at potential officers to sell the idea that soldiering involves brains as well as brawn, with the focus on decision-making. Yet the use of the image for the campaign has caused offence and led to a war of words over whether a photographer has any claim to images inspired by his work.

Saatchi's use of a virtual copy of a photograph in a campaign has backfired, reports Tessa Mayes

Jeremy Pyne, group account director at Saatchi, says: "The photographer felt we were infringing his rights, we felt we didn't."

Photographs are often touched up or used to inspire advertising creative people. The problem is deciding whether there has been an infringement of copyright. In this case, there was deemed to be one because the final image bore a striking resemblance to the original photograph.

To Mr Jones Griffiths, money was not the main issue. "I'm showing the effects of war, photography is good at that, and I have a reputation as a pacifist," he says. "If you took a baby picture and found it in a magazine for paedophiles, you'd be angry."

As a result, the settlement also includes damages for libel. Magnum values its reputation as a humanitarian organisation, although its 50 or so individual photographers have differing views about the use of their work for promoting the Armed Forces — photos by Gilles Peress were used in the Army poster campaign last year.

One Magnum employee says some photographers who

cover war zones feel strongly about securing the political context in which their work is presented. But, he adds: "I'm sure the British Army is not saying it is pro-war."

The Ministry of Defence has been grappling with the problem of recruitment for years. The Army's image suffered a setback when three soldiers were found guilty of sexually assaulting and murdering Louise Jensen in Cyprus last year.

Another image problem is that cutbacks in employment have caused job insecurity within the ranks. The Army's overall strength fell from 145,000 to 116,000 under the 1992 *Options for Change* programme.

Saatchi has responded by re-emphasising the benefits of a career in the Army, pointing out the high quality of training and good salary. It is also portrayed as an extraordinary lifestyle.

Presenting the Army as a modern institution, one relevant to young people's aspirations, is also essential, says Mr Pyne.

Many young people want to travel the world and do good works, and they often join aid agencies and environmental

and human rights organisations. The Army is keen to attract such people, hence the message "that soldiers help people to rebuild their lives."

Has the new ethic won young hearts and minds? Traditionalists point out that the Army, unlike the Red Cross, still has to prepare its recruits for more offensive pursuits, such as shooting.

Ad executives must also show that the Army still retains traditional values such as discipline. A TV commercial called *Enemy Base* concentrates on soldiers deciding which weaponry to use at night, rather than on the human beings who are the targets. Soldiers have to be multidiskilled and prepared for the unexpected since there is no clear-cut enemy. One day they may be fighting in their role as global policemen; the next, they may be mapping the location of landmines. In short, soldiers are expected to be fit, adequately educated and to attain moral standards.

Photographers such as Mr Jones Griffiths are not convinced by the new peacekeeping philosophy. "I'm sure that Belgian soldiers joined up because they were told they'd teach little Somalia to speak French; instead they roasted them over a fire. I have a sense of right and wrong. It's my shining beacon."

Pictures are often touched up or used for inspiration

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Chris Ayres and Jason Nissé on the pattern of journalists' pay; and Peter Foster on freelancing

Hold the pay packet

Mark Twain, when asked why he went into journalism, said he couldn't find an honest job. In his day, the profession was well respected and well paid. Even in the early 1980s, someone fresh out of university might have been tempted into journalism by the prospect of boozey four-hour lunches, free press trips abroad, fat expense accounts and high salaries.

In those days starting salaries in journalism were double the national average. But this has all changed. More than 800 graduates try to break into the profession every year, and salaries have come tumbling down, with some newspapers filling their newsdesks with student journalists on unpaid work experience or low-paid freelancers. National newspaper trainees earn between £12,000 and £17,000, and competition for places is cut-throat. Most graduates end up paying for their own training.

The lucky few who manage to push themselves into national newspaper journalism will be disappointed to find their expense accounts now cover only the cost of a Big Mac. Worse, drinking at lunchtime is reserved strictly for those who do not have to worry about keeping their jobs, or the newspaper alcoholics who swig whisky out of cola bottles.

If you made it to the top of the tree, you could now expect to have a fairly competitive wage. Section editors on national newspapers can expect to earn upwards of £60,000, with most editors earning more than £150,000. David Montgomery, the chief executive of the Mirror Group, last year raked in £581,000 and recently made £780,000 selling his share options. Montgomery started out as a sub-editor on the Daily Mirror and later became editor of the News of the World and Today.

Graduates who went into local or regional newspaper journalism 15 years ago would also have been attracted by high pay, a degree of local celebrity, and status. Some trainees would have been paid about £5,000, which in those days was in line with most trainee accountancy, banking and teaching jobs. Those who ended up as editors will today earn up to £50,000, plus bonuses and share options.

Local newspaper trainees now get paid a lot less in real terms than they used to. Salaries can start at £6,000, rising to £8,000 for the better jobs. Trainees on regional newspapers can earn up to £11,000, although competition is tough and places are likely to be filled by only the brightest of graduates.

As the table below shows, compared with accountancy, banking and commercial management, journalism now seems a far less wise choice of career in financial terms than it was 15 years ago. And while young journalists may comfort themselves with the thought that at least their jobs are rather more fun and glamorous, those approaching middle-age, with mortgages to pay and families to support, may be beginning to wonder whether the trade-off was worth it.



The Front Page story: gone are the days when being a journalist was all about big money, booze and being ahead of the pack

How much are your words worth?

THE INCOME of a freelance journalist, much like a professional footballer, depends on which division you play in. Big names of the premier league can easily earn £1,000 for an afternoon turning opinions for the Daily Mail. Lesser writers hawk their wares round local papers and off-beat magazines for a pitiful £30 or £50.

Even writing for a national newspaper will not guarantee the kind of money that new conservatives and left-extensionists are made of. Contributors to The Guardian met recently at a Soho restaurant to discuss the paper's freelance rates. The writer of a 1,000-word feature can expect to be paid only £150-£170 and to forfeit syndication rights.

The Guardian has long traded on an unspoken understanding

that writing for the paper is a vocational activity like nursing and social work, except the latter are better paid. Admittedly the paper pays its best freelancers more than the minimum rate. Indeed, the Weekend section will pay as much as £1,500 for a celebrity interview, and top writers for the section are among the highest paid freelancers on Fleet Street.

Aside from these chosen few, The Independent pays better than The Guardian on the basic scale — about £200 per thousand words. However, bigger money is on offer at mid-market tabloids.

National newspapers operate in a small but fiercely competitive market. A top name interviewer can command £900-£1,000 at The Daily Telegraph and up to £1,300

at The Express and Mail. Those less in demand but with a good reputation and able to turn their hand to any subject at short notice might make £700 at the Mail, £500 at the Telegraph and Express and £250 at The Times for a single feature.

Rates fall dramatically for other parts of the paper. Jobbing writers without any specialist expertise who contribute to motoring, arts, education or travel pages can earn £150-£450 for an 800-word lead. On local papers rates drop even further, starting as low as £50 for a 400-word travel article. Short book and theatre reviews attract comparable amounts, while big-name reviewers are paid handsomely.

The editorial pages, largely populated by politicians, media-wise

academics and top columnists, are significantly more rewarding than features. Although papers such as The Times, The Telegraph or The Guardian can trade on the kudos of publication in the comment section, top columnists with saleable names are the best paid writers on any paper. Lesser known guest writers on the "op-ed" pages, such as jobbing academics with a specialism, will earn tiny amounts by comparison. Approximate rates are £250-£500 at The Times, £600-£800 at the Telegraph, £1,500 at the Mail and £1,000 at the Express. Agatha, Guardian and Independent rates are lower.

But the market leader in offering kudos instead of cash has long been The Spectator, which, until recently, paid contributors a flat £100.

JOURNALISM	
National newspapers	
Graduate trainee 15yrs ago	£11,000
Grad. trainee today	£12,000-£17,000
Senior journalist 15yrs ago	£30,000
Snr journalist today	up to £65,000
Editor today	£150,000 plus
Regional newspapers	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	up to £6,000
Grad. trainee today	up to £11,000
Snr journalist today	up to £30,000
Editor today	£40,000-£50,000
Magazines	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	£8,000
Grad. trainee today	£12,000-£13,000
Staff writer 15yrs ago	£2,000
Staff writer today	£15,000-£16,000
Editor today	up to £100,000
ACCOUNTANCY	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	£5,100

WHO EARNS WHAT?	
Grad. trainee today	£16,000
Audit mgr. lge firm today	£29,000
Financial director, industry, today	up to £150,000
BANKING	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	£4,900
Grad. trainee today	up to £27,000
Corporate finance advisor today	£43,500-£61,300
City foreign exchange dealer today	£63,300-£100,000
City chief dealer	£135,400-£156,900
MANAGEMENT	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	up to £6,000
Grad. trainee today	up to £17,000
Chairman, lge co, today	£290,000

Director, blue chip company, today	£400,000
TEACHING	
New graduate 15yrs ago	£5,000
New graduate today	£13,000
Head teacher of large primary school 15yrs ago	£15,000
Head teacher of large primary school today	£30,900-£37,800
Head teacher of large secondary school 15yrs ago	£27,000
Head teacher of a large secondary school today	£44,200-£56,000
CIVIL SERVICE	
Grad. trainee 15yrs ago	£6,000
Grad. trainee today	£12,000, or £14,000 on fast-track
Permit Secretary 15yrs ago	£45,500
Perm Sec today	up to £158,000

When Sunday comes

I live in a house of five girls — three journalists, a lawyer and a PhD student, all aged 25-28. We are young, ambitious, have no dependents, and spend our disposable income on holidays, clothes, home furnishings and gadgets — and we read the Sunday papers.

Each week we buy all seven papers and lug them home for an afternoon of idle reading. They start as a tempting, pristine pile on the kitchen table and end up a confused mass of sections and pull-outs strewn all over the floor. On Monday morning, I heave them into the bin, and wonder what part of them, if any, we managed to take in.

Before we begin reading, we strip the papers down to a manageable size. Into the bin go appointments, business, sport, property and money. Travel follows — we don't like reading about other people in exotic places.

Book reviews are also discarded — too many biographies and not enough fiction. We would rather read reviews of books we have already read than those we are unlikely to buy. This week most book sections led with a review of Timothy Garton Ash's *The File*. I felt tempted to save the reviews to consult once I had read the book, then I might find them interesting.

Alan de Botton's "Literary Life" in *The Sunday Telegraph* Review which described a row over a parody of Jostein Gaarder's *Sophie's World*, called Anne-Sophie's World did grab our attention.



We had read the book and were intrigued by Alan de Botton's perspective. A column by an author on his or her favourite novels would make ideal Sunday reading. We usually start with the news pages. I skim the news stories that have already been covered in the week, and focus on the quirkier articles.

The *Sunday Telegraph's* "Schools ban Japanese computer pets" — about children feeling real bereavement at the death of their Tamagotchi virtual pets — was fascinating. Would we be so soft-hearted

THE SUNDAY LEAGUE	
Best Review	by Andrew Malone: <i>The Sunday Times</i>
"Schools ban Japanese computer pets" by Jonathan Peake: <i>The Sunday Telegraph</i>	
"Genes vs reason in Portadown" by Alan Mallon: <i>Independent on Sunday</i>	
"Dublin muggers bring terror to the streets with blood-filled syringes" by Alan Murdoch: <i>Independent on Sunday</i>	
"Timetable set for the brave new world" by Jonathan Dimbleby: <i>The Sunday Telegraph</i>	
"Parade plot to kill blacks with poison T-shirts" by Jonathan Dimbleby: <i>The Sunday Telegraph</i>	
"A series of betrayal" by Jonathan Dimbleby: <i>The Sunday Times</i>	
"Last picture show for Hollywood legends" by Jonathan Goss: <i>The Observer</i>	
"Scene from a script-writer's life" by Rob Long: <i>The Observer</i>	
"Wastes of Space" by Jonathan Goss: <i>The Observer</i>	
"How many tears have to fall" by Julia Llewellyn Smith: <i>The Sunday Telegraph</i>	
"A-Z of the Socials" by Jonathan Goss: <i>The Observer</i>	

ment, wave the pages at each other and say "Have you seen this?"

In contrast, the focus and features pages were disappointing. All devoted pages to topics we had already seen on television — Camilla, William Hague, Hong Kong — hadn't they been discussed enough?

Better were investigations which applied current news to real life. *The Telegraph's* "Ross Reeves doesn't work. Does he want to work and won't be starting now, thanks", was an interview with an 18-year-old who vowed that Gordon Brown wouldn't get him to work. "Genes vs Reason in Portadown" in *The Independent* also presented the human side of the news: residents gave their own despairing views on the Orange marches.

Much to our shame, the comment pages remained conspicuously untouched. Instead, the magazines and supplements begged attention. *The Sunday Times Style* had the most readable pieces, and its "Sea Change" fashion out-shone all others. Other magazine features were simply too long, or looked too boring to begin.

We are a tough group to target. We are cynical and easily bored; we flick rather than digest, criticise before we praise, and like novels more than papers. But if our desire for original and unusual news stories, shorter features and stunning pictures were met, the Sunday papers would become a joy to read.

THE LISTENER

THE NEWS BEHIND THE HEADLINES

Edible cover girl

READING the doggedly cool style mag *Dazed & Confused* these days can leave you feeling just that. The latest wheeze was for the delicious model Helena Christensen to adorn the front cover. The magazine excitedly hyped the fact that the cover would be literally edible. However, after a few problems with the rice paper concoction which was to constitute the cover, and fears that some fools might attempt to eat the entire magazine, the idea was ditched and instead Helena will appear, apparently completely naked, with a scratch-card style bar-code across her chest.

However, she will only appear naked under the bar-



Jackson: fresh talks

of Jacko's two marriages and accusations of child molestation. Ammar says he is going to do something revolutionary: he will talk to the press.

"His relationship with the press was totally mishandled," says Ben Ammar of Jackson's former entourage. "How they dealt with allegations could have been made easier — all they had to do was talk to the press. One of my missions is to say the truth. I am for the mystery of the star — people like to keep a certain dream. But I am also for talking." Jacko is not expected on the *Today* programme just yet.



Christensen: bar-coded

codes on a portion of the print run and some newsagents are expecting chaos in their stores as lascivious types attempt to scratch before they buy.

Jacko's back

MICHAEL JACKSON arrived in London for his first Wembley concert to night with a new spin doctor, Tarak Ben Ammar, his manager since January and the man who persuaded him to pose with his baby for *OK!*, has launched a new media offensive in the wake

Jarring note

AT THE launch of the BBC's annual report John Birt, the Director-General, tried to make the loss of Chris Evans, the phenomenally successful breakfast show host, sound like a triumph. Radio 1 had "offered a truly distinctive music policy, from jungle to techno, from hip-hop to Britpop and said goodbye to the DJ who didn't like Fridays", he smirked. Nice try.

SLAPS on the back in The Archers studio for Trevor Harrison, who plays lovable rogue Eddie Grundy, who has just arrived back from a holiday in Rhodes where he secretly married his girlfriend Annette Owen. "It was the second time round for both of us and we didn't even tell our families until afterwards. All the cast were delighted but a few have been insisting that it's not too late for a stag night."

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

50% off adventure sports

The Times offers you a selection of adventure sports throughout Britain this summer with discounts of 50 per cent off normal prices. You can choose from more than 15 activities anytime before September 30, 1997, subject to availability. Collect four tokens, attach them to a voucher, and book your visit in advance with the relevant company. When you make your payment, send your voucher and tokens to

validate your discount. Readers are responsible for taking out their own holiday and accident insurance cover.

FREE SCUBA DIVE

You can have a free try-dive with the British Sub-Aqua Club (normally £15) between Aug 11-17. Present four differently numbered tokens when you take your dive and call 0500 947 202 for your nearest teaching pool.

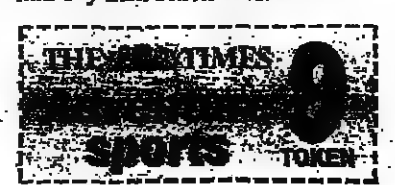


By canoe or kayak you can discover the remote beauty of rivers and see the countryside from a new perspective. Canadian canoes are open-topped and have seating capacity for up to three people, paddled with a single paddle, enabling you to travel down stream with relative ease. B

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If you take to canoeing like the proverbial duck to water — and most people do once they have tried it — you can go on to undertake a British Canoe Union Star Award. Or you may want to embark on a more challenging sport, white water rafting or kayaking. You will enjoy, after a course of safety drill, the thrills and spills of thundering, boiling, adrenaline-pumping white water. Collect four tokens from The Times and send them with

tomorrow's voucher to either: Black Mountain Activities, Hay-on-Wye, Hereford. Tel: 01497 947897. Offer: £14 (£28) for one-day instruction, incl equipment. Ascending Parachutes, Meopham, Kent. Tel: 01732 823396. Offer: £15 (£30) for a half-day instruction course.



TOMORROW: DETAILS OF ADRENALINE-PUMPING 4X4 DRIVING

CHANGING TIMES

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TODAY



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BA strikes at
the heart of
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SPORT

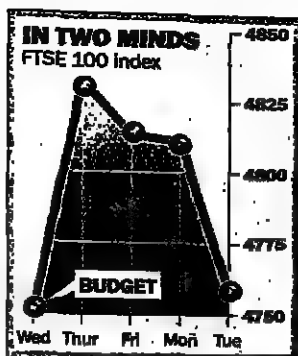
Fast lane beckons
Formula One's
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TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JULY 9 1997

Interest rate fears send stock market into reverse



THE stock market went into reverse as fears of a rise in interest rates continued to haunt the City ahead of today's Bank of England monetary policy meeting.

The FTSE 100 index fell 52.2 points — about 1 per cent — to 4,785.5, with economists predicting that the Bank will push up interest rates by a quarter point to 6.75 per cent.

However, the pound renewed its climb, after a fall prompted by Tuesday's weak manufacturing output figures, to hit a six-year high against the mark. The pound closed up three pence at DM2.9693, having reached DM2.9740 at one point.

Exporters, including ICI and GKN, were again the big losers although financial services stocks also lost some ground after their recent strong rises. The latest Engineering Employers Federation quarterly survey, which was published yesterday, showed exports at their lowest for three years. Output and employment in the sector also fell.

Headline inflation rose from 2.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent in June, the highest rate since January 1996. The Government's favoured measure of inflation, which excludes mortgage costs, rose from 2.5 per cent to 2.7 per cent, above the target level. Economists said the figures marginally increased the chances of further rate rises but that most of the rise was a result of increases in erratic elements of the index and the outlook for underlying inflation remains benign.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4785.5	(-52.2)
Yield	3.43%	
FTSE All share	2226.02	(-21.4)
Nikkei	19653.89	(+148.72)
Dow Jones	7910.98	(+52.47)
S&P Composite	916.24	(+4.04)

US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	100%	(100%)
Yield	6.50%	(6.50%)

LONDON MONEY		
3-mth Interbank	8 1/4%	(8 1/4%)
Life long gilt	114 1/2%	(114 1/2%)
Future (Sep)	114 1/2%	(114 1/2%)

STERLING		
New York	1.8888	(1.8885)
London	1.8911	(1.8948)
DM	2.5718	(2.5383)
FF	16.0220	(16.1103)
Sfr	4.4771	(4.4533)
Yen	190.40	(188.30)
£ index	104.2	(103.3)

US \$ DOLLAR		
London	1.7587	(1.7535)
DM	2.5718	(2.5383)
Sfr	4.4771	(4.4533)
Yen	112.70	(112.79)
£ index	102.2	(101.5)

MORTH SEA OIL		
Brent 15-day (Sep)	\$18.40	(\$18.30)
GOLD		
London close	\$321.15	(\$319.55)

INSURERS		
Lincoln	1.7587	(1.7535)
DM	2.5718	(2.5383)
Sfr	4.4771	(4.4533)
Yen	112.70	(112.79)
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Debenhams to demerge from Burton

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM, RETAIL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN HOERNER, the American chief executive of The Burton Group, yesterday moved to arrest the sharp decline in the group's share price by demerging Debenhams, the department store side which Mr Hoerner was brought to Burton to run.

The move means that Mr Hoerner will take direct control of the remaining group, which includes Top Shop, Top Man, Principles, Burton Menswear, Evans and Dorothy Perkins. This has led to the departure of Stuart Rose, who has been managing all the multiples except Top Shop. He is on a two-year rolling contract and his salary last year was £280,000.

Debenhams will have a separate London Stock Exchange listing from next year. Analysts reckon it is worth between £1.3 billion and £1.6 billion, while the remaining business, which is being reorganised into a single group with a new name, will be valued at between £550 million and £700 million.

Mr Hoerner, Burton's chief executive, will become chief executive of the multiples group and will be joined there by Andrew Higginson, Burton's finance director. Terry Green, who has been chief executive of Debenhams since taking over from Mr Hoerner in 1992, will retain that job after the demerger.

Sir John Hoskyns, who had been due to retire as chairman of The Burton Group next January, will stay on until July. Peter Jarvis, the former chief executive of Whitbread who was recently named as Sir John's successor at The Burton Group, will become chairman of Debenhams after the demerger. He is also chairman of the Low Pay Commission.

Mr Higginson said the decision to split had been taken after talking to the group's institutional investors after the last, poorly received results. "We had our eyes opened. Institutions were finding it difficult to take a view on the business as it is. Now we'll have Debenhams, which is a very strong business, and the multiples, which have made great strides, but which are five years behind."

The company said it considered a demerger three years ago but thought the multiples were not then strong enough. Common systems and practices have since been installed at the multiples and profitability has improved.

The move sent Burton shares up 10 1/2p to 125 1/2p. They recently touched a year-low of 114p. Reaction among analysts was mixed, however. Nick Bubb, of Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull, the broker, said he was strongly in favour and he valued Debenhams alone at more than 100p a share.

Others were less favourable. One City analyst described the change as "financial engineering without strong operational reasons", adding that all the changes in structure could have been done with Debenhams and the multiples remaining under one umbrella. He said that shareholders would strongly favour shares in Debenhams over the remainder of the group.

The trading statement yesterday showed that sales at the multiples, excluding home shopping, were up more than 1.4 per cent in the past 18 weeks. Although the bad weather in May and June will have contributed to this disappointing performance, sales at Debenhams in the same period rose 10.4 per cent.

A circular about the demerger will be sent out to shareholders in November and a vote will be taken at the annual meeting in January, with the demerger taking place in the spring.

Mr Hoerner, who was paid more than £900,000 including bonuses and benefits last year, is expected to maintain his pay level in his new job. He is likely to be a non-executive director of Debenhams, which he ran from 1987 before taking over the group.

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George Simpson plans to dispose of GEC-Alsthom and hinted at returns for shareholders

City cool on Simpson's new strategy for GEC

By OLIVER AUGUST

GEORGE SIMPSON, chief executive of GEC, yesterday heralded the end of the "joint venture culture" of Lord Weinstock, his predecessor, by pledging to focus on the group's core strength in defence, industrial electronics and telecoms over the next three to four years.

Mr Simpson announced plans to dispose of GEC-Alsthom, the £2.5 billion trains and power joint venture.

A decision on a possible flotation, which is favoured by Mr Simpson, is expected in the next three months. He raised the possibility of returning some of the funds to shareholders.

The City reacted with disappointment to the long-awaited strategic review because it lacked any acquisitions or executive board ap-

pointments. The shares fell from 377p to 353p. Mr Simpson said he wanted to turn Marconi into a global leader in defence electronics. He singled out Finmeccanica of Italy and Siemens-Plessey as key partners.

GPT, the telecoms arm, will be revamped to maintain a presence in the sector. It has one of the highest growth rates in the group. Investment in product development and engineers will be increased significantly.

The number of businesses grouped together in the industrial division will be reduced according to growth potential. The medical business is set for further acquisitions and Mr Simpson did not rule out an offer for Siemens's medical business even though the German company said its business was not for sale.

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Regarding a merger with British Aerospace, he said: "Whether GEC-BAE will happen depends on how much shareholder value we can get from partnerships in Europe and the US."

GEC has a cash pile of £2 billion. Mr Simpson said: "I can't say when or if money will be returned to shareholders. It totally depends on our success in identifying acquisition targets."

A new GEC chairman is said to have been found, but he will not start until next year when his present employment contract runs out.

An offer has been made to a candidate to succeed David Newman, following his surprise departure from the company.

Corbridge signs off with £400,000

By JASON NISSE

MARK CORBRIDGE, who resigned yesterday as joint chief executive of Newcastle United, is to receive a £400,000 pay-off, taking the former merchant banker's total earnings in just over eight months at the recently floated Premiership club to more than £800,000.

Newcastle said Mr Corbridge left because the management structure of the company, where Freddy Fletcher was also joint chief executive, was "not satisfactory". Mr Corbridge, 33, joined in November from NatWest Markets, the bankers that sponsored the float, in a move

presented as strengthening the management team for the float. Jo Dixon, Newcastle's finance director, also joined from NatWest.

Mr Corbridge, a Sheffield Wednesday fan, was behind the decision to force Kevin Keegan, the club's former manager, to either resign or commit himself to the club in a long-term deal, leading to Mr Keegan's departure.

Mr Corbridge argued that Mr Keegan's previous threats to resign would have to be included in Newcastle's prospectus for its £193 million flotation last March. Mr

Corbridge is known to have clashed with Sir John Hall over the running of the club. Sir John stood down as chairman of the company shortly before the float, but remains chairman of the club. His son, Douglas, now controls the Hall family's 51 per cent stake. Earlier this year Cameron Hall Developments, their company, paid Mr Corbridge a £300,000 bonus for floating Newcastle. His salary was £160,000 a year, and he will receive another £400,000 in compensation for loss of office.

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Keegan: commit or quit

Barclay twins target The Independent

By ERIC REGULY

THE secretive Barclay twins are trying to add the *The Independent* and its Sunday sister to their growing media empire.

Andrew Neil, the former Sunday Times Editor who is now Editor-in-chief of the Barclay newspaper company, has approached the Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers of Ireland about taking control of the *Independent* titles. Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers each own 46.4 per cent of *The Independent*

and *The Independent on Sunday*.

The Barclays believe that Mirror Group wants to raise capital after last week's agreement to buy Midland Independent Newspapers, owner of *The Birmingham Post*, for £297 million. They are keen to add national titles to their portfolio, which includes *The Scotsman*, *Scotland on Sunday* and *The European*.

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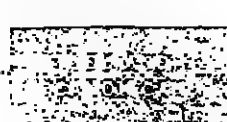
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Simpson plays it close to his chest



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

Lights, fanfare, up with the curtain, and down with the share price. After eight months in rehearsal, the George Simpson show hit town yesterday, and the reviewers were not impressed. After all the publicity, they had hoped for something more than a bland statement of intent.

So Mr Simpson wants to extricate GEC from uncomfortable joint ventures and build a stronger defence business on the back of Marconi. Of course he does, and the surprise would have been if he had said anything to the contrary. But what the market wanted was details of the terms on which he was to exit from the Alstom alliance and some positive news on how he will be spending the £2 billion cash pile, which gave Lord Weinstock such a warm and comfortable feel but greatly irritates investors who want to see their money put to work or handed back to them.

Mr Simpson had nothing categorical to say on either front. Neither could he name GEC's next chairman, although the individual knows who he is and is, apparently, discussing the timing of his move with his current employers. The name of a finance director to replace the departed David Newlands would have been welcome, but even that is to remain under wraps until next month.

This all added up to a rather thin script for Mr Simpson's

much hyped performance. But it is the hype which is at fault rather than Mr Simpson. In moving to GEC, he took on a huge task, and the looming presence of Lord Weinstock at Stanhope Gate has not made it any easier. It may be impossible to accuse him of acting prematurely, but it is too soon to accuse him of inaction.

The broad brush strategy he has outlined is the right one and will take time to accomplish. Negotiations with his joint venture partners are underway; it would not be surprising if his opposite numbers in France and Germany felt that his eagerness to have something positive to say on July 8 would work in their favour. But he was not prepared to settle for a deal at any price. Now, with the deadline removed, the discussions should move into more positive mode.

Simpson is confident that there are acquisitions he can make to bolt onto Marconi, and is enthusiastic about building up the industrial electronics business. He knows that he will have to start spending that cash soon, or shareholders will reclaim it.

But his biggest challenge remains the one that thwarted his wily predecessor. The logic in

joining GEC and British Aerospace is as pressing as ever. It may make sense for the French Thomson to have a role as well in creating a European defence industry power, but it is the GEC/BAE link that is crucial. If Simpson played that down yesterday, it was not because it has fallen from the agenda.

It is the dream deal and if he can deliver it, the City will forgive him for the minor disappointment of yesterday.

Hoerner sticks in his thumb

Debenhams is to float on the stock market. A perfectly reasonable move, given the star rating attached to Harvey Nichols and the lowly price of Burton Group shares. But the equally significant news from Burton is that John Hoerner is to take control of the business.

Those who know Hoerner, and have seen him seethe with frustration when things are not done the way he believes they should be, will understand that means change is in store. From Top Shop in Watford to Dorothy Perkins in Wolverhampton, and at more than 1,300 locations in between, they are going to notice the difference.

Hoerner arrived from the United States to sort out Debenhams and was catapulted into clearing up the debris of Sir Ralph Halpern's excesses in the rest of Burton Group. He has made huge strides in that direction, pulling out of property development, running down debt and applying a degree of logic to the store portfolio. But he is far from satisfied with the results that the multiples are delivering.

The restructuring will put him clearly in charge of making those stores as successful as Debenhams, which, as yesterday's trading update spelt out, is producing

almost twice the sales growth of the multiples.

It is a brave move which puts his neck firmly on the line. But his confidence in his abilities is evidenced by the fact that he is giving up the chief executive role in a group which has just tripped out of the Footsie for a similar slot in a much smaller company with a mixed bag of brands.

Now he will aim to run the multiples as a single business instead of playing ring master to a group of companies, each trying to protect their own territory. Critics will say that, if he believed the bureaucratic structure of Burton was holding it back, he could have swept out the tiers of management before now, and enjoyed the potential cost benefits a little sooner. But Hoerner has hardly been wasting his time since taking over as chief executive.

He has overseen Debenhams' development to the stage where it now has a blueprint for profit-

able growth that can be followed with but the lightest of prodding from him as a non-executive director. The restructuring of the organisation could have been accomplished without a demerger, but there is much to be said for a move which will undoubtedly boost shareholder value and free Hoerner to immerse himself in the shops.

Too quiet on NatWest front

It was a sombre crew which assembled for the board meeting at National Westminster yesterday and public statement came there none. They met again at the end of this month to decide what sentiments would best accompany the figures to be reported in August.

They will hope by then to be able to name a new head for NatWest Markets, where group chief executive Derek Wanless has been thrust into temporary charge of the reprobate division which has cost the bank more in reputation than in hard cash.

But the bank will find it difficult to dodge the wider issue and say exactly how it aims to structure itself for the future. The

current state of rumours which has NatWest linked with any organisation that knows a little about financial services or has misfolded a personal pension is unsettling for those within the bank as well as its investors.

Abbey National would have been a perfect partner and serious talks did take place between the two. There are those within NatWest who still harbour ideas that the resounding rejection which Abbey issued did not really mean "no" but was just a case of playing hard to get.

It would not be surprising if NatWest were to venture another effort at kindling a relationship, although the terms would have to reflect NatWest's chastened circumstances.

Lord Alexander can be hugely persuasive and NatWest now finds itself in need of all his skills as an advocate.

Don't blame Brown

WHATEVER one's political persuasion, blaming Gordon Brown for the latest hike in inflation cannot be reasonable. Cauliflowers and tomatoes are more culpable, thanks to the unseasonal weather which has sent the prices soaring. It is to be hoped that the monetary policy committee take note of the price of vegetables before deciding on whether another increase in interest rates is what the country needs.

Fresh warning sends Dalgety shares tumbling

By DOMINIC WALSH

DALGETY, the food manufacturer best known for its Winalot and Felix pet foods, was in the doghouse yesterday as the City digested the implications of a fresh profit warning and a hefty £100 million of unexpected charges.

Shares in the company, which issued an earlier warning in May, lost almost 15 per cent of their value, sliding 39p to 222½p after the company issued a trading statement. It said pre-tax profits for the year

to June 30 were expected to be not less than £65 million — down from £101.9 million last time — because of poor fourth-quarter trading in agriculture and pet foods and sweeping changes made to accounting practices related to goodwill.

In May Dalgety indicated that "exceptional" charges would be £36 million, but yesterday a swathe of extra restructuring costs and other provisions took the total bill for charges to £138 million.

Sir Denis Henderson, who took over as chairman six months ago, said: "These results are unacceptable and shareholder value must be restored." He added that the board had initiated a "fundamental and rapid reappraisal of the group's businesses".

Richard Clothier, chief executive for the past four years, rejected suggestions that he should step down. "We have made substantial changes to management," he said. "We have a new chairman, a new finance director and a new head of pet foods. We've now got to get on and do what has to be done."

Mr Clothier said the latest pronouncement followed "two months of intense work" by Ken Hanna, who recently joined as finance director from United Distillers, and Hugh

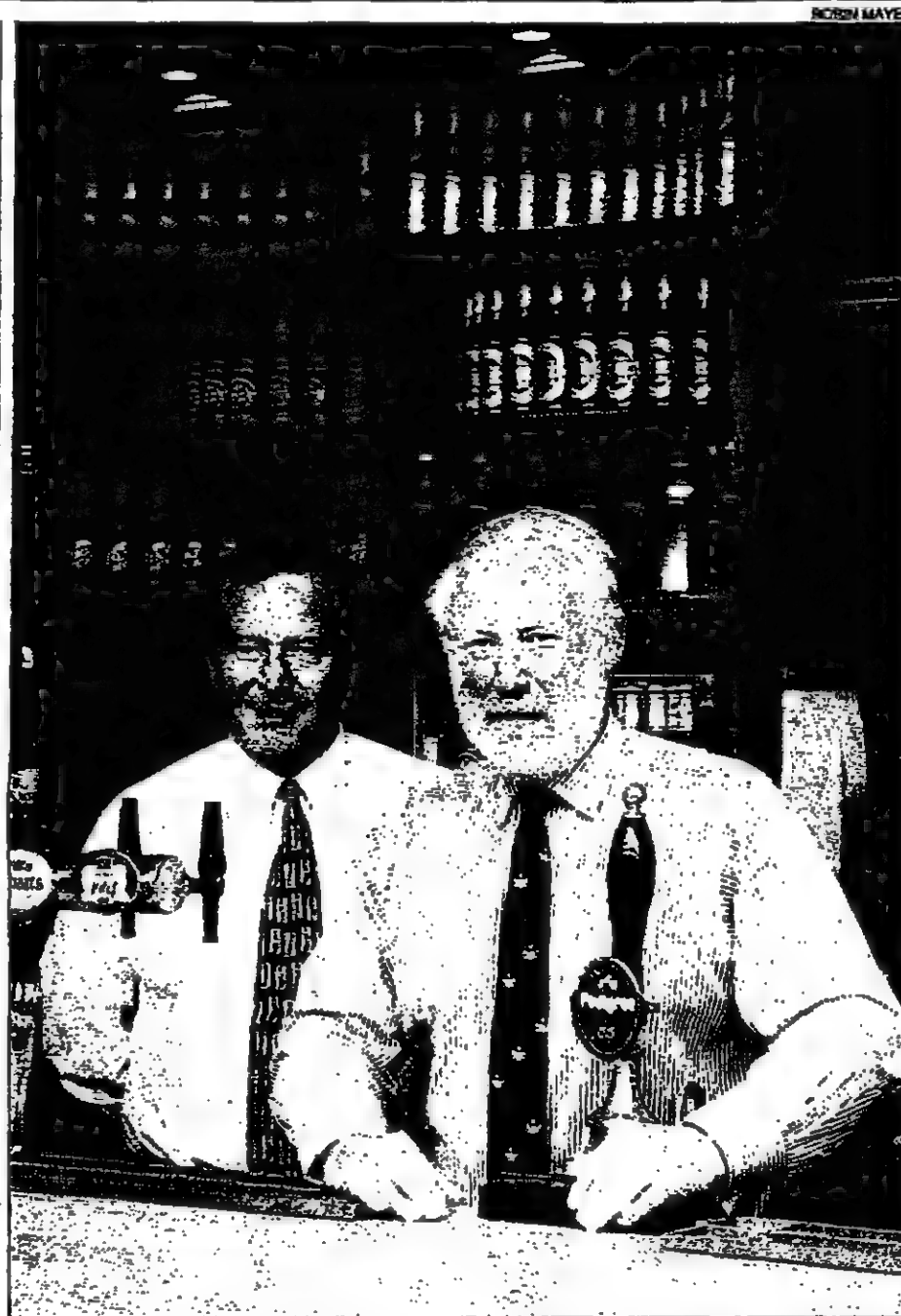
Donaldson, new head of pet foods.

Of the £138 million provision, the biggest slice came from pet foods (up from £30 million to £67 million). The BSE crisis was a significant element, and £15 million of write-downs came from surplus property assets. Some £50 million of write-offs were related to small businesses that are to be sold off. Mr Clothier said the updated figures were an attempt to clear the decks and enable the company to move forward. "We have a lot of work to do, but the only way we can persuade shareholders is to deliver."

A big concern remains current trading, which has been particularly weak in agribusiness. Animal feed volumes have been lower than expected and margins depressed by increased competition. The final straw was June's wet weather which knocked sales of agrochemicals.

David Lang, analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, described the statement as "agony piled in thick layers". He added: "They're in the doghouse and will remain there for some time. It is going to be a while before we see the benefits of what they're doing."

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David Gordon, left, and Michael Hurdle, 'toughing it out in a tough market'

Marston's finds profits on a plate

By DOMINIC WALSH

BOOMING pub grub sales and the acquisition of the Pitcher & Piano chain helped Marston's Taverners, the Midlands brewer, to raise pre-tax profits 8.2 per cent to £29.5 million.

The slightly better than expected profits, from turnover up 9.2 per cent to £187.5 million in the year to March 29, pushed the shares 7p higher to 277½p.

Marston's said £20 million for Pitcher & Piano, a chain of seven trendy London pubs aimed at "young professionals". David Gordon, managing director, said the business had made "excellent progress", contributing operating profits of £1.4 million from sales of £6.1 million in nine months.

Food sales improved across the board, with the 245-strong John Marston's Taverners managed estate lifting turnover from pub grub by 18.5 per cent to £24.3 million. Food now accounts for 31 per cent of the division's sales.

Profits from brewing and wholesaling continue to fall, dipping by 4.8 per cent to £4 million. However, Michael Hurdle, chairman, insisted brewing was an important and integral part of the group and was not being retained simply for sentimental reasons. "We're toughing it out in a tough market," he said.

A final dividend of 5.33p makes 8.03p, up 10 per cent on the previous year.

New policy cuts EGIT asset value by 65%

By PAUL DURMAN

THE East German Investment Trust, which once counted leading City figures such as Lord Tugendhat among its directors, yesterday reported some of the worst results ever seen from an investment trust.

The value of EGIT's investments has fallen by 65 per cent a share because Foreign & Colonial Ventures, the trust's new manager, insisted on abandoning the optimistic valuation policy of its predecessor. Most of the East German businesses that the trust has backed since raising £40 million in 1991 have failed or been written off as worthless. This has left 77.5 per cent of the remaining portfolio invested in just three companies.

The fall in net assets per share from 76.2p to 26.8p prompted a further slump in EGIT's share price, from 31½p to 18½p. Investors, led by Norwich Union, originally paid 100p.

Foreign & Colonial said that Ermagassen, the previous manager, had included the benefit from prospective orders and other potentially positive developments in its valuations. This is apparently permitted within industry guidelines on unquoted investments.

Peter Dicks, EGIT's chairman, described the last year as "disappointing".

Ermagassen received DM2 million (£670,000) in compensation for termination of his contract. Walter Zinsner, from the firm, still sits on EGIT's board.

Inquiry's £12m blow for Molins

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES in Molins fell to a six-year low yesterday as the maker of cigarette and teabag machinery said that an investigation into accounting irregularities in its American division had uncovered a £12.2 million deficit — £5 million more than expected.

An inquiry into the irregularities uncovered two months ago, showed that profits had been overstated for ten years, with £3 million of overstatement for 1996 alone. Molins shares fell 27½p to 471½p.

The company has since replaced Leo Maynes and Walt Belville, the Americans who were in charge of the business, with managers from the UK.

Molins also said that the investigation, by KPMG, had disrupted normal business of its corrugated board machinery arm, cutting sales substantially.

Peter Harrison, chief executive, said: "The problems were a one-off and we are now set to recover." He said that Molins had invested £11 million in research and development in the past year.

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Savills surveys a record

By CARL MORTIMER

THE buoyant commercial property market has lifted Savills, the surveyor, to record pre-tax profits of £7.6 million in the year to April 30, up from £4.14 million in the previous 12 months.

Profits from Savills' commercial business more than doubled to £2.8 million and the firm expects investment activity to continue to grow with increased interest from pension funds.

Richard Jewson, chairman, said pension fund clients were increasing their allocation to property. "Because of the loss

of the dividend tax credit, pension funds are looking at direct property investment which pays them gross."

Savills' total fee income rose by 31 per cent to £54.8 million and the increased volume of business — transactions were up by 60 per cent — helped to raise the operating margin from 9 per cent to 13 per cent.

Savills' staff will benefit from the profits surge; the company is sharing out £3.8 million in a profit-related bonus to directors and fee-earning staff. Last year's pay-out was £4.1 million.

Savills' fund management arm ended the year with £400 million of property under management, having achieved a total return of 13 per cent.

The residential business handled 2,300 transactions worth almost £1 billion and during the year acquired George Street, the estate agency. Earnings per share rose 75 per cent to 11.7p and the dividend for the year is 3.5p, up 25 per cent.

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Profits slow at Tie Rack

NIGEL MCGINLEY, chief executive of Tie Rack, said yesterday that profits so far this year were slightly below expectations because of the strength of the pound and a mixed spring performance (Adam Jones writes).

He told the company's annual meeting that current sales trends were better. Tie Rack has opened 18 stores in nine countries so far this year, including the Czech Republic, leading to a total of 422 worldwide. The shares fell 2p to 144p.

Pressure on water plan

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

YORKSHIRE WATER will tomorrow seek shareholder approval for a bonus scheme awarding directors up to 40 per cent of their salary. Under the controversial long-term incentive plan the more money given back to shareholders, the more the directors will benefit.

Pete, the corporate governance consultancy, is recommending opposition to the scheme, along with Waterwatch, the water pressure group. Both groups claim the scheme rewards mediocrity

and should take account of wider company performance. Ann Simpson, joint managing director of PwC, said: "These multiple levels of remuneration need to be justified because they are very expensive in the long term. We are increasingly seeing bonuses become part of normal remuneration whereas they should be to reward exceptional performance."

Pete Bowler, campaigns officer for Waterwatch, said: "Shareholders should not approve an incentive scheme

which gives such generous payments for such little skill."

Yorkshire's incentive plan links directors' rewards with shareholder returns through share price growth and dividends, compared with those of the other seven quoted water and sewerage companies. In the year to the end of March Yorkshire Water raised profits by 3 per cent while increasing its dividend by 19 per cent.

Yorkshire Water said: "It is important that the company attracts and retains the right calibre of director."

Sugar may sue Seagate in US

By JASON NISSE

ALAN SUGAR, who is breaking up his Amstrad empire, yesterday said he was considering suing once again Seagate Technology, the American business that has been ordered to pay Amstrad £85.5 million in damages and interest for delivering faulty goods.

Amstrad sued Seagate, a manufacturer of computer components, because of its role in the failure of Amstrad's PC2286 and 2386 seven years ago. The court awarded Amstrad £57.5 million in May and has now increased this to £85.5 million after adding interest.

However, Mr Sugar, who owns 34 per cent of Amstrad shares, believes that another £10 million of interest should be added to Seagate's bill. Any receipts from the legal action will go straight to shareholders



Amstrad's Alan Sugar is considering fighting on two fronts

as part of the splitting of Amstrad into two business units, Betacom and Vigen.

Amstrad is appealing in the UK and is also threatening to sue in the US, alleging fraud which would lead to punitive damages. However, the US

courts would have to accept that it is a substantially different action to allow it to proceed over there.

Nick Gardner, the partner in charge of the case for Amstrad's solicitors, Herbert Smith, said: "We are advising

our client on that point at the moment."

Seagate also said it would appeal. Al Sugar, its chief executive, was quoted in the US as describing the ruling as a "home court result" and attacking Judge Humphrey Lloyd, who presided. "His wig was on too tight and it caused brain damage," said Mr Sugar.

Amstrad is also suing Western Digital, another US disk-drive maker, in California. A date has yet to be set for the \$186 million (£110 million) action. It has been delayed by a ruling that Western must change its lawyers in a dispute about an expert witness. Amstrad shareholders will get a participation certificate to share receipts of the legal action as part of the restructuring of Amstrad, which values the group at more than £400 million.

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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Inflation and rate fears put shares on the run

IT looks like odds-on for a quarter-point rise in interest rates tomorrow after the sharp jump in inflation last month.

City economists expect the Bank of England's independent economic policy committee to signal such a rise, the third in as many months. It could be followed by a similar rise next month.

This was not the news that the City and Britain's manufacturers wanted to hear. Another rise in interest rates will only serve to underpin the strong pound.

Both share prices and Government bonds were on the run yesterday. The FTSE 100 index closed just above its worst levels of the day with a fall of 52.21 at 4,788.5. The FTSE 250 was 26.1 down at 4,400.8. A total of 885 million shares changed hands.

Exporters and manufacturers were the worst hit, with TI Group down 19p at 450p after talk of a profits downgrade by Lehman Brothers. The US securities economist at Charnerhouse merchant bank, does not think the Bank of England committee will allow the strong pound to cloud its judgement over domestic economic policy.

IMI, down 14p at 283p, was also said to have been downgraded by Lehman. Other casualties of a strong pound included Smiths Industries, 12p off at 727p. Rolle-Royce, 6p cheaper at 221p, and Spirax Sarco, 40p lower at 606p. Less obvious companies were Renishaw, down 62p at 280p, and Tite Rack, 2p lighter at 144p.

The City gave a lukewarm reception to a drop in profits at GEC and the continuing delay in the group's restructuring programme. Brokers said the statement from George Simpson, chief executive, was long on words and short on substance. The decision to end its involvement with the GEC Alsthom venture was seen as the only significant move. The shares lost most of their recent gains, ending 24p lower at 353p.

Dixons hit 49p before relapsing to close 3p cheaper at 492p ahead of today's full-year numbers. Profits are expected to grow by around 40 per cent.

Burton Group got the thumbs up from brokers for its plans to demerge Debenhams, with the price



Peter Birse and Martin Budden of Birse Group, up 3p

touching 133p before closing 10p better at 125p. Société Générale, Strauss Turnbull, the broker, has put a valuation of up to 100p on Debenhams, while fixing a target price of up to 150p a share on Burton.

The second profits warning in three months left Dalgety nursing a fall of 39p at a new low of 221p. This time it blamed poor trading in the fourth quarter and revealed

that exceptional costs had soared from the £36 million forecast to £138 million. The group was continuing to struggle to integrate the pet food business it bought from Quaker Oats in 1995. At these levels the group's stock market price has fallen to 60p, a near doubling of pre-tax profits and an upbeat statement on current trading lifted Birse Group 3p to 34p. Peter Birse, chairman, said the elimination of debt and a positive cash flow after years of losses was now a realistic objective. Garmore Investment now speaks for 21.2 million shares, or 11.1 per cent.

Eurotunnel firmed another 21p to 84p ahead of tomorrow's EGM. It now seems increasingly likely the group will obtain shareholder permission to proceed with its debt for equity swap with the consortium of 225 banks it owes almost £9 billion.

□ GILT-EDGED: That unexpected rise in the inflation rate took the edge off the bond market and produced a further flattening of the yield curve as shorter dated issues came under selling pressure.

In futures, the September series of the long gilt ended five ticks lower at £142.32 as \$3,000 contracts were completed. Among longer dated issues Treasury 5 per cent 2015 finished three ticks off at £101.16, while Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was 1p lower at £102.32.

□ NEW YORK: New hopes for corporate earnings were attributed to early session gains that saw the Dow Jones industrial average gain 52.47 points to 7,910.96 by midday.



THE wet weather in June, turned out to be good news for the big four food retailers, chief executives, was long on words and short on substance. The decision to end its involvement with the GEC Alsthom venture was seen as the only significant move. The shares lost most of their recent gains, ending 24p lower at 353p.

the year to June. This was the equivalent of a reduction in overall deflation of 1 per cent to just minus 0.3 per cent.

"In other words food prices are on the way up. It had been thought prices would continue falling right through the autumn. That now seems unlikely and has got to be good news for the supermarket chains," he said.

In February, brokers began a series of profit downgrades after Tesco alerted the City to the problem of falling food prices.

marks going through in take-over target Cater Allen, as the price held steady at 57p. A line of 3.1 million shares was recorded at 57p, along with another of 967,000 at 57p and 540,000 at 56p. Abbey National already has an offer on the table of 59p, plus the 20p dividend.

The low bids in the first of four auctions for Woolwich shares saw the price drop 33p to 30p as turnover reached almost 18 million. Around 23 per cent of the shares issued attracted an average price of 315.35p. That compares with the 367p they began trading at on Monday. At last night's close the minimum windfall for its 2.5 million customers was £1,365.75.

The rest of the banks lost ground along with the market. The biggest falls were seen in Abbey National, 31p to 845p, Barclays, 14p to 182p, HSBC, 19p to 185p, Lloyds TSB, 14p to 66p, NatWest, 37p to 94p, and Standard Chartered, 12p to 97p. A near doubling of pre-tax profits and an upbeat statement on current trading lifted Birse Group 3p to 34p. Peter Birse, chairman, said the elimination of debt and a positive cash flow after years of losses was now a realistic objective. Garmore Investment now speaks for 21.2 million shares, or 11.1 per cent.

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MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	Dow Jones	7910.96 (+52.47)
S&P Composite		916.24 (+4.04)
Tokyo:	Nikkei Average	19553.89 (+148.72)
Hong Kong:	Hang Seng	14792.17 (+64.11)
Amsterdam:	EOE Index	918.04 (+0.81)
Sydney:	DAX	2679.23 (+33.80)
Frankfurt:	DAX	4006.40 (+33.50)
Singapore:	Straits	3007.23 (+14.24)
Brussels:	General	14077.12 (+14.48)
Paris:	CAC	3539.81 (+17.80)
Zurich:	SWX	1218.00 (+10.70)
London:	FT 30	3024.5 (-27.2)
	FTSE 100	4788.5 (-52.21)
	FTSE 250	4400.8 (-26.1)
	FTSE 350	2285.0 (-2.0)
	FTSE Europe 100	2653.81 (+16.50)
	FTSE All-Share	2284.02 (+1.4)
	FTSE Non Financials	2250.78 (+18.89)
	FTSE Financials	1253.10 (+0.58)
	FTSE Govt 50p	67.18 (+1.18)
	Barracks	1322.9
	SEAQ Volume	885.3m
	US\$	1.6897 (+0.0051)
	German Mark	2.4693 (+0.0036)
	Exchange Index	104.2 (+0.9)
	Bank of England official close (Hopt)	1.3883
	ESCU	1.3663
	ESDM	1.3663
	RPI	156.9 May 1996 Jan 1997-100
	RPIX	156.3 May 1996 Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

AIT	150p	...
Bakery Services (3)	34	...
European Mining	24p	...
Grosvenor Hedges	3	...
Grosvenor Hedges Writs	1	...
Highland Timber	122p	-2
Home Office (200)	322	-4
Primesight	140	...
Roubaire Merit	110p	...
Royalblue Group	210	...
SBS Group	112p	...
SCB Group	150	...
Woolwich	301	-33

RIGHTS ISSUES

Benchmark Gp n/p	15p	...
Dragon Oil n/p (2)	1	...
Maclean n/p (20)	9	...
Marylebone Wreck n/p	4	...
Milwall Hedges n/p (1)	4	...
Waterfall Hedges n/p	5p	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISSE:	Real Time	285p (+10p)
	LASMO	277p (+10p)
	Tomkins	288p (+10p)
	Sainsbury	388p (+8p)
	Tesco	408p (+8p)
	Lapole	608p (+11p)
	Boots	751p (+11p)

FALLS:	Wagley	222p (-38p)
	Woolwich	301p (-33p)
	Low & Bonar	243p (-19p)
	GEC	353p (-24p)
	View	221p (-15p)
	Vicac	530p (-33p)
	Eni Botech	201p (-12p)
	Hamleys	235p (-12p)
	Rentokil Int	212p (-10p)
	Eurotherm	305p (-15p)
	IMI	288p (-14p)
	Black & Leach	423p (-18p)
	Regent Inns	274p (-11p)
	TI	497p (-18p)

Closing Prices Page 31

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Long Gilt	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Ytd
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97

MONEY RATES (%)

Prime Bank Bills (10k)	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
Bank of England	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Scotland	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Ireland	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Wales	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Cyprus	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Greece	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Spain	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Portugal	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of France	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
Bank of Germany	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
£	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
€	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
¥	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₹	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₱	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₪	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₹	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₱	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₪	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75
₹	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75	5.75

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Gold: Open	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40
Low	51.35	51.35	51.35	51.35	51.35
High	51.45	51.45	51.45	51.45	51.45
Close	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40
Settling	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40	51.40
Platinum	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00	54.00
Palladium	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00	170.00

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Rate	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
£/\$	1.60	1.60	1.60	1.60
£/¥	160	160	160	160
£/₹	160	160	160	160
£/₱	160	160	160	160
£/₪	160	160	160	160
£/₹	160	160	160	160
£/₱	160	160	160	160
£/₪	160	160	160	160
£/₹	160	160	160	160
£/₱	160	160	160	160

TEMPUS

Labour's real estate

NEW Labour's new Chancellor is engineering a new property boom. The last time a certain Mr G. Brown had a national plan for the long-term regeneration of Britain, we ended up with restrictions on development leading to a shortage of office space and soaring prices. Gordon Brown would not be so vulgar as to intervene in a free market. But he has a wizard wheeze aimed at encouraging companies to reinvest rather than pay dividends. Unfortunately, it is causing pension funds to pour money into commercial property.

That was not intended. Back in the 1960s, the aforementioned George Brown wanted to drive investment to areas of unemployment. Hence the planning restrictions which in the end drew hot money to areas of office shortage, somewhat defeating the purpose. Gordon Brown also wants to influence

investment behaviour, not by banning building but through abolishing the dividend tax credit, worth some £5 billion to pension funds. Shorn of income from equities, pension funds need an alternative — and what better than commercial property, which currently offers an average yield of 7.8 per cent, higher than ten-year gilts and vastly superior to the 2.5 per cent net yield on shares.

The Chancellor is speeding up a process that was already under way. Pension funds have been long-term disinvestors in commercial property, but in the first quarter of this year put a net £400 million into bricks and mortar. A tax-efficient income stream is attractive and almost outweighs the problem of direct property's illiquidity. Property shares will also benefit until the weight of money outpaces demand from tenants for new buildings.

DALGETY tends to disappoint, but this time the management has come up with a dog's dinner of a trading statement that succeeded in wiping 15 per cent off the company's stock market value. Most hurtful was the size of the provision — £138 million compared with the £36 million predicted by the company in May.

So what has happened in the space of just two months? According to yesterday's statement, the recent arrival of new bosses in finance and the Spillers petfood business led to an in-depth investigation of the way things were done, mainly on the accounting side. The concerns related to goodwill on businesses earmarked for disposal, asset valuations and capitalisation of expenditure.

All this, coupled with a further warning on fourth-quarter trading is hardly a recommendation, for Richard Clotier, a 20-year Dalgety veteran and chief executive for the past four. But at least Mr Clotier has grasped the nettle. It is also true that he has suffered a run of bad luck, what with the BSE crisis hitting both agriculture and petfoods.

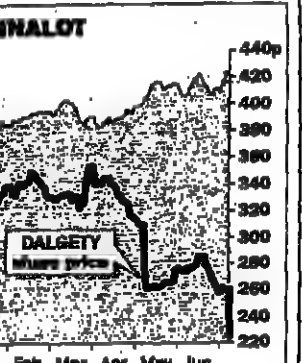
Then there was the wettest June for years, which meant farmers stopped buying agrochemicals on the grounds that they would simply be washed away by the rain. Clearly, this remains a business with strong brands such as Winalot and Felix, but there is a huge amount of work still to do before investors can be won round.

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COMMODITIES

LIFFE	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Ytd
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97
100	11/24	114.24	114.24	114.15	114.21	96.97

ICIS OIL (London 6.00pm)

ICIS OIL (London 6:00pm)			
CRUDE OILS \$/barrel (bbls)			
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
W Texas Intermediate	147.55	+0.25	
W Texas Intermediate	147.55	+0.25	
W Texas Intermediate	147.55	+0.25	
PRODUCTS (\$/bbl)			
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)			
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
NAPHTHALENE (\$/bbl)			
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	
Front 15-day fwd	147.55	+0.25	

A dozen years ago, Debenhams lost its independence after one of the most spectacular takeovers in the City had been seen. Now the department store group is to be set free once more, a stylishly reinvigorated version of its former self, hoping for a glamorous stock market rating to match.

In 1985, Sir Ralph Halpern was in his heyday at Bortons and the takeover was his biggest deal. It involved an extraordinary cast of City characters including Sir Terence Conran, Lord Harris of Peckham (then Sir Phil), Gerald Ronson, Anthony Parnes, the stockbroker who later achieved notoriety for his role in the Guinness affair, the Fayed brothers and, eventually and at length, a host of DTT inspectors.

It was an extraordinary maelstrom of City intrigue that whirled around the jaded stores as the determined Sir Ralph pursued his quarry. Robert Thornton, then the chairman of Debenhams, was determined that the group should remain independent. It was trading poorly but had a proud history. From its beginnings as a small draper in Wigmore Street in 1778 it had grown, as Debenhams & Freebody, to a chain of more than 60 traditional department stores plus Hamleys toy store and the

Independent future in store for reinvigorated Debenhams

Harvey Nichols store in Knightsbridge. Sir Ralph, who was still highly respected in the City at that stage, had been thinking of making a bid for some time. He was finally persuaded to move when he teamed up with Sir Terence Conran, who as head of Habitat-Mothcare was then equally well-viewed as a retailer.

Under the deal struck between the two men, Sir Terence should have been given the contract to redesign all the Debenhams stores and 20 per cent of the store space to himself. His intention was to turn the lumpy, drab stores, hardly changed from their Debenhams & Freebody days, into more exciting galleries housing masses of small outlets.

The plan could not have been more Eighties, and it was never to reach fruition. After the takeover was done, Habitat-Mothcare merged with British Home

Stores to form Storehouse and Sir Ralph decreed that Sir Terence was a rival rather than a collaborator. Their agreement was off and the galleries was ditched on the drawing board. But the temporary partnership had gained control, after fancy footwork that has still never been unravelled to some spectators' satisfaction.

In the end, it was Gerald Ronson, of Heron International, and Sir Phil Harris, then chairman of Harris Queensway, who unexpectedly gave Sir Ralph their support and ensured that the £560 million deal went through. The two men, who had appeared to favour the Debenhams side, held a 7.9 per cent stake which, combined with a 5 per cent block of shares mysteriously produced at the last minute by Cazenove, Burton's broker, took Burton's holding to above the magic 50 per

cent level. The controversial deal led to an inquiry by the DTT. It was alleged that Burton had entered into commercial deals with Heron and Harris Queensway prior to the bid's conclusion. Sir Ralph always denied this and, after the DTT inquiry was concluded, no further action was taken.

Although the inquiry had no long-term legal consequences, it was enough to dent Burton's reputation and hurt his share price. Sir Ralph's reputation had already gone far beyond the confines of the City and for all the wrong reasons as his tempestuous affair with Fiona Wright, the model, made tabloid headlines for weeks. More ill-judged expansion and property speculation finally led, in 1990, to his downfall and he was replaced by Laurence Cooklin.

While much of the Burton Group was falling to pieces in Sir Ralph's last years, he had had the good sense to appoint John

Hoerner to run Debenhams in 1987. Hoerner, an American, had been running L.S. Ayres, the Indianapolis retailer. At Debenhams, by focusing on own-brands and a carefully paced expansion, the business was transformed into a highly successful chain, which now has 92 department stores and room for further growth.

Hoerner's success at Debenhams led to him being offered the job of chief executive of the whole group and, just 15 months after Cooklin had replaced Sir Ralph, Hoerner took the top job from him.

But while Debenhams has gone from strength to strength, the multiple retailers — Top Shop, Top Man, Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Burton Menswear and Principles — have delivered more patchy performances that, the management believes, have hidden the true worth of the department store side.

It is certainly true that, despite the turbulent beginning, 12 years with Burton have left Debenhams in rude health. And even those who contested the bid would now have to admit that it looks particularly good by comparison with House of Fraser, of which it so nearly became a part.

SARAH CUNNINGHAM
Retail Correspondent

BUSINESS LETTERS

Shareholders retain control

From the President, Eurotunnel Plc

Sir, I write in response to your Commentary (Business News, July 3). Based on facts which I am sure the Mandataires, Robert Bandinter and Lord Wakeham would confirm, my view is totally different.

Eurotunnel's shareholders will in fact retain at least a majority of the enlarged share capital following approval of the financial restructuring, so it is not correct to say that "by signing up, the shareholders will finally lose control of the group". Shareholders may be able to participate in the forthcoming issue of shares to the banks. If they are able to do so, they will retain a correspondingly larger interest in the company.

Furthermore, by exercising the warrants which will be issued following approval of the financial restructuring, existing shareholders may be able to continue to retain at least 55.5 per cent of the shares in future.

Secondly, if the company performs as expected, there is no reason to expect a further refinancing. The restructuring plan has been specifically designed to be robust enough to produce the need for a further refinancing in all but a severe downside case. Therefore, it is not correct to say that the banks "will have to refinance in 1999 or 2000", nor is it correct to say that in any future refinancing the banks "will have enough votes to push the deal through". In any event, it is reasonable to question how many banks are likely still to be shareholders at that stage. Those that are would be bound by the restrictions of French law preventing shareholders voting on matters in which they have a conflict of interest.

Finally, by securing an extension to the concession shareholders will, if they vote in favour of financial restructuring, benefit from an increased share in long-term profits. It is unreasonable to suggest that the price for an extension of the Concession from 2052 should be a share of dividends as early as 2005. It would be a very unusual transaction for a company to pay the Governments in advance for the privilege 50 years later of generating tax revenues for their benefit.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK PONSOLLE,
President,
Eurotunnel Plc,
Cheriton Park,
Cheriton High Street,
Folkestone, Kent.

BA strikes at heart of labour relations

Philip Bassett
on what is at stake and how the result of the dispute will affect everyone

Labour equals strikes. For thousands of British Airways passengers who will be hit by strike action today, this key Conservative charge in the election may now be resounding with new force: the first major industrial dispute since Labour came to government seems to signal the return of trade union power with a vengeance.

Eight weeks into a Labour Government, are the unions back and flexing their muscles? And will the British Airways strikes mean that the Conservatives were right — that new Labour means old unions, old strikes, old ways?

In some respects, today's strike by up to 8,700 BA cabin crew who are members of the Transport and General Workers' Union will be done in a new way. Picketing huge sites such as London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports, with their multitude of entrances and exits, is almost impossible. So the union is designating this morning's strike a "family day" — turning pickets into picnics, urging striking members to bring their children along to picket, organising barbecues, blowing up balloons.

Part of this is a clear attempt to win the all-important PR battle. The union wants to convince the public that this is a big, successful company throwing its weight around against a group of employees who are on the side of the passengers. On the other hand, if BA can persuade people to believe that this is a dinosaur trade union, opposing progress and standing in the way of improved competitiveness, then it may bring public opinion on to its side.

But behind the new techniques — Internet sites, call-in phone lines, glossy communications — lies in many ways a highly traditional dispute, even down to the secret, last-minute negotiations taking



Bob Ayling believes that BA must beat the strike and make its proposed changes if the airline is to succeed in a highly competitive global market

place yesterday in a Sussex hotel. Faced with tough competitive pressures, BA is seeking extensive changes in the way some key staff work. Faced with an employer making such action, the highly traditional TGWU is resisting. From today the rock and the hard place are meeting.

BA's stance is rooted in the company's business efficiency programme (BEP), which Bob Ayling, the chief executive, is seeking to drive through the business. Airlines are highly competitive, global businesses, and BA needs to keep pace, pointing to the new Star Alliance between Lufthansa, United, South African and Thai airlines as clear evidence of globalisation. "Open sides" here in Europe, and open sides will come in North America," says Charles Guitass, BA's passenger and cargo business director.

BA's BEP scheme will see £6 billion invested over the next three years in new aircraft, facilities, services, products and training. Included in that is its controversial new corporate identity, at a cost of £2 million — but also 43 new aircraft. As part of the programme, BA is looking for £1 million of cost savings. Jobs

are being lost, but BA says it has created 16,000 jobs since privatisation a decade ago, and will be employing a further 2,000 this year. The company has already secured union agreements to change covering some 30,000 airline staff in such areas as customer services, world cargo, baggage handling at Heathrow and others.

As a result of the BEP drive, BA is facing two disputes. One, about the sale of its in-flight catering business at Heathrow, may well be on the verge of resolution. TGWU ground staff members are balloting now on a new deal, and BA ground staff members of the GMB general union voted this week to accept it. But the other dispute, behind today's 72-hour strike, looks more intractable.

BA reached agreement in the spring on a new deal for stewards and stewardesses with a union called Cabin Crew 99 — a union that broke away from the TGWU in 1989 after sharp policy differences. CC99 members balloted on the deal, and voted four-to-one to accept it.

The company says the pay restructuring deal, implemented on May 8, will give

raises in pensionable pay of between 14 per cent and 24 per cent by consolidating variable earnings into mainstream pay. The TGWU says it may lead to some staff losing money. BA accepts a "minority" may lose money, but is offering money-back guarantees to make up the shortfall. The TGWU's cabin crew section, BASSA, called a strike ballot on its imposition, and today's action is the result.

Technically, BA employees going on strike today will be doing so against a deal which they already have in their pay packets. BA is insisting that it cannot negotiate with the TGWU on the deal, since CC99 has already accepted it, and since cabin crew are already benefiting from it. In fact, TGWU officials did not even see the full text of the agreement until yesterday's talks. George Ryde, TGWU national aviation secretary, accuses BA of operating "virtual reality in a virtual airline".

Swirling around the dispute is some pretty high politics. Bob Ayling, a former government lawyer, is close to some key figures in the Labour

leadership. He shared a fiftieth birthday party with Jack Straw, the Home Secretary and a long-time friend and neighbour. Tony Blair unsuccessfully tried to get him to head his No 10 policy unit, a job that the Prime Minister would like to fill with a senior business figure. Mr Ayling is leading the Government's Greenwich Dome Millennium project, alongside Peter Mandelson, Mr Blair's closest ministerial adviser. TGWU leaders believe that such close new Labour relationships mean that BA has all but complete government sanction in the dispute.

Both BA and the TGWU have been readying themselves for many months for today's strikes. BA has trained and recruited replacement cabin crews. And because of its subdivided bargaining structures, which will mean that many cabin crew are unaffected by today's strike, BA will be able to present to the public today the impression of running many services. But senior BA managers recognise that many services, especially from Heathrow, will be hit hard.

BA has also been wielding a hefty stick. Cabin crew who

take part in the strike will be heavily penalised. Staff travel concessions will be withdrawn for the next three years, and strikers will not be considered for promotion until spring 2000. Early retirement and voluntary severance options will also be withdrawn from strikers.

Staff going on strike face the prospect of being sacked, and — for only the second time in a British industrial dispute — of the company suing them for damages as a result of their breach of contract.

However, according to Ronnie Fox, a partner in Fox Williams, the City law firm, BA's chances of success are slim. The previous case, in 1988, concerned a National Coal Board supervisor. The

courts found against the NCB because it could not prove that there was any loss because the supervisor did not dig the coal himself. BA would have to prove that a particular flight was cancelled because an individual member of cabin crew did not turn up for work, something Mr Fox describes as "a massive task".

Even the prospect of strikes tends to deter customers, and send them flocking to book with other airlines — parties in the holiday season. BA estimates that current lost forward bookings are in line with the £15 million it now says it lost when its pilots threatened strike action a year ago. TGWU estimates from internal BA sources say the actual business loss could already be as high as £100 million.

For the TGWU, the BA dispute is a key test. Not far below the surface, TGWU leaders are deeply worried about the BA dispute — worried that the "intimidation" will work, that the union will lose. Some in the union believe that BA has manoeuvred for its moment: that it wants to bust the union, replacing it with the more compliant CC99 — although Andy Grey, its president, yesterday accused the TGWU of being a "bunch of lunatics" who were trying to destroy his rival union.

For the unions more generally, the dispute is vital too. John Monks, the moderate General Secretary of the TUC, is already threatening to mount a consumer boycott of BA, and the TGWU is drawing on international support. A win would demonstrate union strength and, oddly enough, perhaps increase the likelihood of employers joining the partnership approach to work relations that the TUC and the Government insist that they want to see.

Inside job

PRISON does not seem to have dimmed Owen Oyston's entrepreneurial spirit. A year after being sent down for six years for rape, the flamboyant media and estate agency entrepreneur was indulging his love of publishing by lending £100,000 to keep the ailing newspaper Sunday Business afloat.

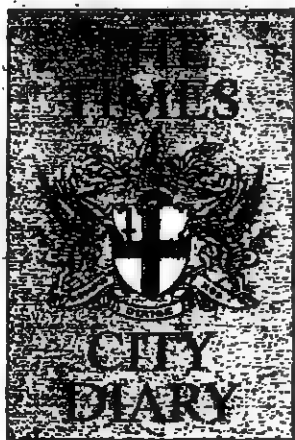
The title, in which Pizza Express tycoon Luke Johnson has an interest, was threatened when Group 2000, which owns 75 per cent of the paper, collapsed last week. Edward Klempka, the receiver, told me yesterday that the paper only appeared last weekend

because Tom Rubythorn, its founder, produced a £100,000 cheque on Friday evening. "The paper will survive. The paper will print on Sunday. And the paper will be sold at the next few days," Klempka said confidently.

Chatting to Rubythorn, it emerges that Oyston, who lost more than £200,000 when Sunday Business went into administration last summer, was the kind benefactor who lent the money. But will he lend Rubythorn enough money to buy the paper, now Klempka has put the stake up for sale? "Oh, I don't think I'm a player," Rubythorn tells me. "There's a huge offer on the table." Expect news soon.

● CREST, the new share dealing service, put out a briefing note with a difference this week. It was about the arrangements for the Woodwich float and the BZW auction. The note arrived, alas, at one baffled regional stockbroker entirely in Greek.

Not classical Greek, nor yet demotic Greek as she is spoken on the streets of Athens today. Instead, as far as I can tell, it is a direct transliteration of each original English letter. Crest was saying nothing, but I blame a rogue computer program. Quite why anyone would want to write a



program that translated English into meaningless cod Greek I cannot say

Postal code

WELL, stone me! Strike a light! Knock me down with a feather! Merrill Lynch is waiting for it, going to develop the Post Office sorting office in King Edward Street, just north of St Paul's, for its new headquarters. This has been about the worst-kept secret in London for some months, even if the US investment bank has always refused to confirm it. As I reported a while back, Merrill even had three British builders producing competing tenders for the site, none of whom would be terribly pleased to have had their time wasted because the Americans have opted for Neasden even if

only one has now been selected. The real alternative was Canary Wharf, of course, and I understand that in the light of the troubles of Barclays de Zoete Wedd, now rapidly shedding staff on its way there, this swiftly became a non-alternative.

There were four factors taken into account — cost, what employees wanted, what clients wanted, and accessibility. The Post Office development will cost £400 million. Canary Wharf would have been cheaper, on all three other counts it loses. End of debate.

Taylor away

SPEAKING of BZW's via dolorosa down the river to Canary Wharf, I hear another crew member has jumped ship. The pleasant change in the summer weather will therefore be welcomed by Simon Taylor, former electricity analyst there. Taylor, poor soul, is going to have to spend the next three months in the garden, before joining Sakom Brothers at Victoria in the autumn.

● I WOULD not normally recommend the Chartered Institute of Bankers' 50th international banking summer school next week at St John's College, Cambridge, for a little light relief. But Monday's session could be a hoot. Slotted in at 4pm is a paper on "Strategic risk issues in man-

aging capital." It is given by Nick Carter. He works for NatWest Markets. So he is clearly speaking from the heart.

House red

ON THE menu at Les Saveurs, the awesomely trendy restaurant jointly owned by Marco Pierre White, the temperamental chef, and RF Hotels, Sir Rocco Forte's new venture, there is a bottle of 1989 red burgundy, Domaine de la Romanée Conti. A big bottle, admittedly. It is priced at £45,000. So far no takers, but Forte assures me: "If anyone buys it, I'll come around and serve it myself."

MARTIN WALLER



Forte: no takers for £45,000 bottle

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ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES			
Guinness	100	100	100
Heineken	100	100	100
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Barclays	100	100	100
HSBC	100	100	100
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A promising playwright moves up to a first-division venue – and fails. Plus, black comedy is alive but ailing in Dublin



Geraldine McEwan (second from left) and family in playwright Samuel Adamson's disappointing major league debut, *Grace Note*

Mark this down to inexperience

Samuel Adamson's *Clocks and Whistles* brought Dominic Dromgoole's regime at the Bush to a climactic close last year. It was one of that theatre's trademark exercises in urban angst: a first play by a 26-year-old dramatist that struck us all as precociously sharp about the callow bohemians of West London. It even offered Kate Beckinsale as a Sloane actress nervily flitting between a gay publisher, a bisexual poet and a sugar-daddy something-or-other.



But can fringe discoveries such as Adamson achieve prominence on the mainstream map? Can they write for theatres as large and traditional as the Old Vic, as well as attics as cramped and poky as the Bush? It was partly in the hope of proving that this jump could be successfully made that Dromgoole agreed to become Peter Hall's second in command at the Vic, a bright young lieutenant with special responsibility for new drama. But an obvious question arises: is Adamson the right choice for promotion?

On the evidence of *Grace Note*, no, not yet he isn't. True, one problem might have been cured if the hectic turnover of plays at the Vic allowed more than a single preview before opening night. Dromgoole's cast might have realised that more than pub-sized acting was needed if they were to project to seat H9 and points beyond. But inaudibility combined with slack, dull exegesis and non-too-interesting characterisation to send me out for my interval coffee a fretful, irritated man.

Who are these people popping in and out of "Daniel and Ellie's house in West London"? It takes time that should be spent on more rewarding matters to twig just how they are related to Grace, a one-time cellist now slipping in and out of senility. Jennifer and Daniel are the twins she damaged by trying to foist musical careers on them. Jack is the coarser, more robust third child she had by a bassoon player from Idaho. Ellie is the kindly Aussie who has made a marriage of convenience to Daniel, who fancies nice young Nick. Please feel free to take this notice as a crib to the Vic if you see *Grace Note*.

I cannot hugely recommend the journey. The play asks what relatives with money worries of their

MARK O'ROWE has a taste for blood. Whether as a means of adding intensity to his narratives, or simply establishing his hard-boiled Dublin milieu, the young playwright is quick to reach for the deadly weapon, to deal the brutal blow and then watch the consequences unfold as they will.

For Paul (Ger Carey), the man at the centre of O'Rowe's *From Both Hips* (Project at the Mint, Dublin), the consequences have been severe. He has accidentally been shot by Willy (Sean Rocks), a far too green recruit to the drugs squad, in a botched raid, and now returns home to a life that may not, it appears, have been perfect even before the incident that crippled him.

Like Harold Pinter, one of his obvious godfathers, O'Rowe likes to confuse his audience's easy notions of location and milieu, luring them in with suggestions of

Two stabs at a killing joke

NEW IRISH DRAMA

working-class Dublin, and then slamming and bolting the door behind them with self-consciously theatrical patterns of dialogue and plot.

From Both Hips has ambition, but is short on perseverance. Although it is peppered with enough wriggling absurdity and pointed comedy to intrigue, the play, in a rather curt production from Jim Cullen, loses its way. Tight narrative criss-crosses, fuzzy nuances and surreal details give way to a chest-beating contest with rules as dense as a samurai ritual.

IF O'ROWE has a probing approach to the place of laughter in his view of Dublin life, Brendan O'Carroll has no doubts as to its centrality. Not that this prevents the Dublin writer and stand-up comedian from creating a deceptively resonant piece of theatre in *Grandad's Sure Lily's Still Alive* (at the Gaiety).

At its base, the play is an Irish re-working of *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, with the action transferred to an old people's home. The setting is a clever stroke, allowing O'Carroll to buffer the shock value of

his smut by having it voiced by pensioners.

His play refuses the desexualisation of the over-sixties, while at the same time finding a poignant slapstick in the exertions of geriatric sex. Letting loose salvo after salvo of crude humour against the backdrop of the grim netherworld of a retirement home offers an appealingly complex texture to what is, at a very obvious level, a sociological workout, in which characters debate such questions as the difference between sounds made at orgasm and those made on the lavatory.

What O'Carroll has devised is an effective way of dealing with a harsh and ignored aspect of 20th-century life, a period that can never be fully planned. As Charlie, O'Carroll's abandoned geriatric, puts it: "How was I to know I'd live this long?"

LUKE CLANCY

Daniel Rosenthal meets the indefatigable boss of the Hampstead Theatre

The star who stays backstage

Read and inwardly digest 500 new plays in you will be following the cultural diet on which Jenny Topper has thrived for the past 20 years. In that time she has worked her way through the mountainous slush piles of just two theatres: the Bush, where she was co-director; and the Hampstead, where she has been artistic director since 1988. Her choice and development of plays has done much to sustain both venues' reputations as immensely fertile nurseries for new writing.

Full-length works by Kevin Elyot, Lucy Gannon, Billy Roche, Tony Kushner and Terry Johnson were among the plays premiered at the Bush between 1978 and 1988; Johnson, Frank McGuinness and Brad Fraser head the list of dramatists whose new writing has been staged, often to award-winning effect, under Topper's Hampstead tenure. Both posts have provided her with "an extraordinarily rewarding existence" which, lottery willing, will soon take an adventurous new dimension.

The Hampstead's latest show provides a fine example of Topper's hands-on approach. Simon Block's second play, *Chimps* – a black comedy about an artistic couple whose life is turned upside-down by a pair of menacing salesmen – was already "in proper shape" when Topper was handed the manuscript by its commissioning producer, Michael Codron.

"Chimps was extremely funny and dark. Our literary manager called it 'Kafka meets Ray Cooney meets David Mamet'." Topper explains. "But in the opening exchanges Simon had not created a sufficiently weighted sense of the couple's history to make the ensuing events seem plausible. Our conversations about this and other points saw it through three further drafts."

"I don't have the marvellous ear for dialogue that Simon and some other writers have, and I'm deeply envious of it. I also lack the tremendous emotional and intellectual stamina needed to become a good director. But what I do have is an ear for other people's dialogue and an ability to come up with ideas that can help excellent writers become better."

Terry Johnson, four of whose plays have received the Topper treatment, most recently *Dead Funny*, doesn't contradict that assessment. "Her input to my scripts has always been excellent: respectful and incisive in equal measure," he says. "She also keeps her hand firmly on the helm during a play's production, steering you towards the best possible result."

Johnson is equally enthusiastic about Topper's lottery plan for the Hampstead. Provided funding approval and planning permission are given by, respectively, the Arts Council and Camden Council (the Hampstead's two main sources of revenue subsidy), the steeply raked, early Sixties auditorium and adjoining offices would be demolished. In



Jenny Topper: "I do have an ability to come up with ideas that can help excellent writers become better"

its place, on vacant ground just 200 yards away from the present site, would come a "genuinely unique" venture which has been Topper's goal since before the first lottery tickets were sold.

"From autumn 2000, there would be a 200-seat theatre for the initial runs of our own

shows, with the same intimacy as the current, 174-seat auditorium," she explains. "But what makes this project so special is that under the same roof, and serviced by the same staff, we would also have a 400-seat sister theatre to take transfers from the 200-seater, or from places like the Almeida, the

Bush, or from venues outside London. We would no longer be a fringe venue with inadequate facilities."

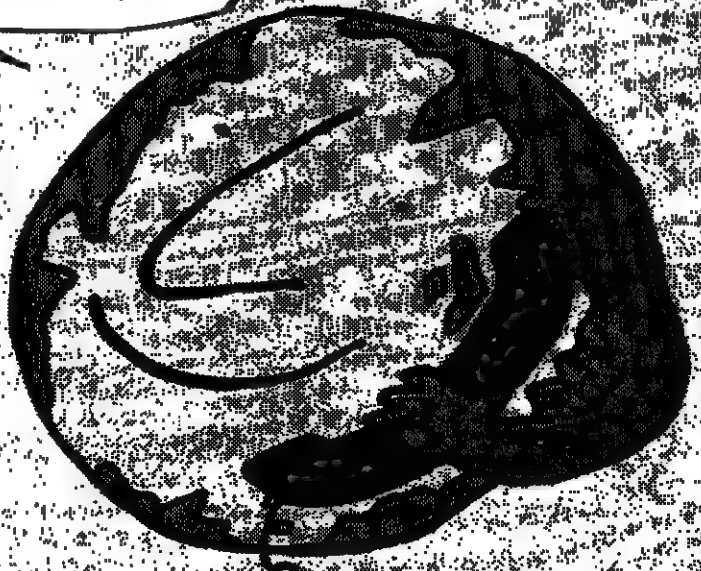
Her desire to transform the Hampstead into a more flexible and, potentially, far more profitable home for contemporary drama goes hand in hand with her passionate belief that to prevent the best young dramatists being seduced by chequebook-waving television producers, "we have to find a way of paying them the same for a play as they can get for an episode of *Casualty*".

She has trumpeted that message repeatedly since taking over as chairman of the Arts Council's New Writing Committee last year. And it tempers her excitement about the late Nineties' harvest of first-rate new plays. Even if the lottery application were to be turned down, however, she says that the chances of her jumping ship are close to zero. "So long as I can continue to work with good writers," she adds, "the thought of walking away from the Hampstead is unbearable."

Chimps previews at the Hampstead Theatre, NW3 0JY 0171-722 9301 from tomorrow

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READER OFFER THE TIMES

Exclusive private view at the Tate Gallery

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive party, on Tuesday, July 22, to celebrate the Tate Gallery's 100th birthday.

100

The entire party will be open to all, and will include special temporary displays, the Turner collection and the current major exhibition of Ellsworth Kelly's works. The party is from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. You will be able to see a selection of 100 works of special interest, in rooms of Victorian and 19th-century paintings and Henry Tate's Gift, which tells the story of the gallery's founding, with a display of works from the original collection.

The contemporary exhibition at the Tate Modern will be open to all.

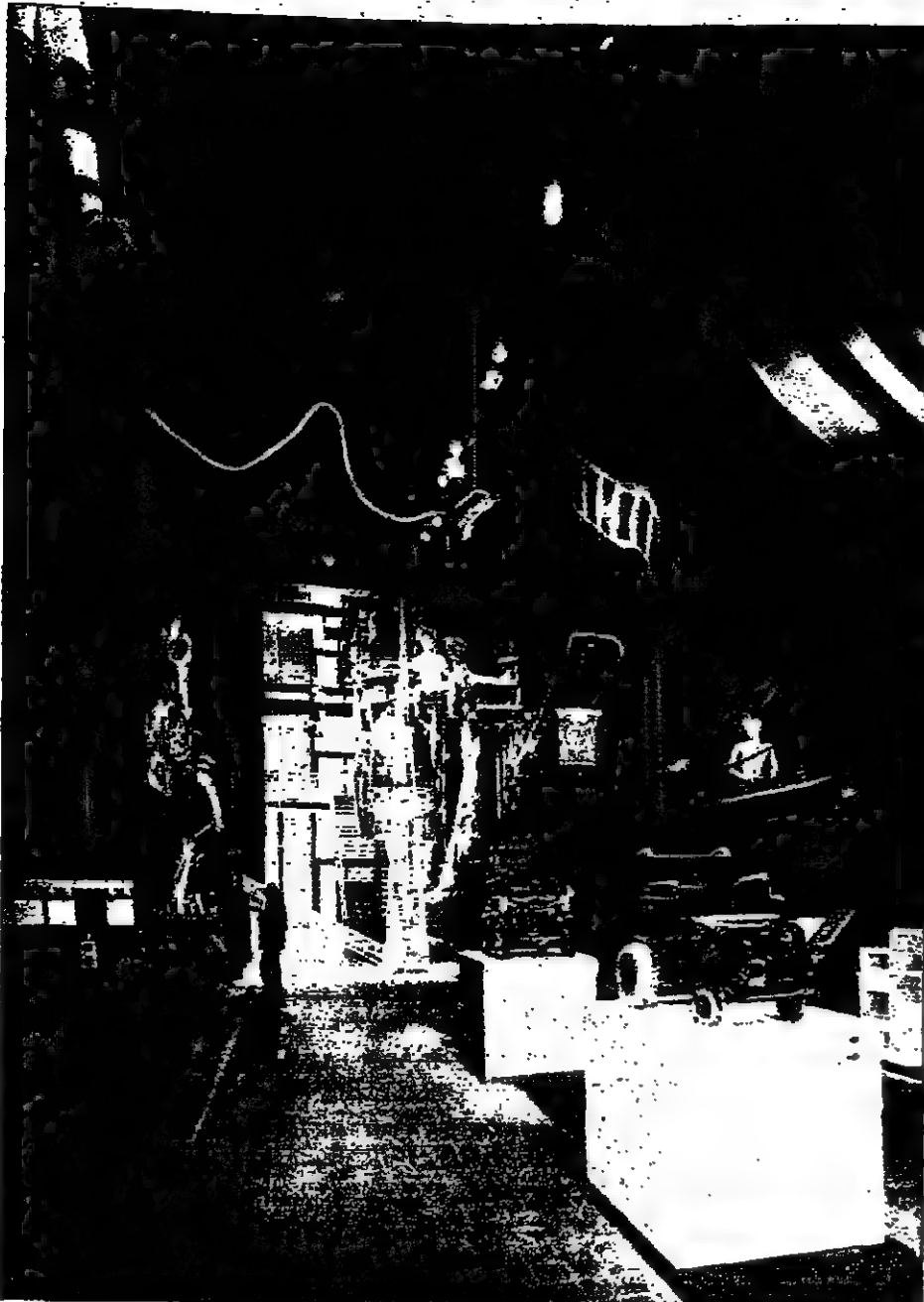
Leading American painter Ellsworth Kelly has the first retrospective of his work in Britain. It includes more than 50 works from 1949 to the present day. Kelly's paintings (see picture) are based on careful observations of the real world, transformed into abstract works of the greatest possible purity of colour, line and form. The paintings in this unique private view are strictly limited and readers are advised to book early to avoid disappointment. Call First Call on 020 7460 8000. Tickets, which cost £10, will be available, include canapés and glasses of wine.

CHANGING TIMES

حکومت الاصل

Foster takes the green route down the Ruhr

A top British architect is transforming Germany's grimy industrial heartland. Marcus Binney reports



It is the ultimate shotgun marriage: the sleek, lightweight, transparent, squeaky-clean architecture of Sir Norman Foster and the brooding, smoky, mill-harbours, chimneys and collieries of the Ruhr. Foster moved into Germany as recession struck Britain in the late 1980s, and this summer four new Foster buildings have opened within little more than a dozen miles of each other.

Here he presents Germany with the building of the future: high-tech, automated... and yet fashionably "green". It doesn't sweep away the Ruhr's mighty industrial heritage, but it does show it off to spectacular advantage.

At Duisburg, Foster was called in to sow the seeds of a new Silicon Valley, with state-of-the-art facilities for computer geniuses. To soften the bulk of his new Micro Electronic Centre, Foster has designed it as a high-tech version of a roll-top bread bin, with facade and roof forming one continuous dramatic curve of glass and silvered aluminium.

In downpours like those of the past few weeks, the whole front could have become a Niagara, with water cascading over the entrance. But Foster has neatly inserted a series of deep concealed gutters to siphon off all the water. In hot weather, the huge areas of glass are 30 per cent shaded by a grid of steel rungs which ingeniously double as a cleaning ladder. And the rear wall, facing west, is equally high-tech, shaded by banks of piston-operated external blinds, shaped like aerofolds and sturdy enough to withstand hurricane force winds.

Once inside you wonder why the atria are wedge-shaped. "The Germans have very strict daylighting laws and this brings the maximum natural light into the offices," says Foster's partner, David Nelson. The lightweight roof is supported by the slenderest of concrete columns. "Our German engineer Reinhold Meyer gives us skinnier columns than we get in England," says Paul Kalkhoven, Foster's Dutch associate. "But so far, nothing fell down."

Thanks to Germany's well-established "green" policies, fully air-conditioned offices are on the way out. "Instead of pumping cold air round, we pump chilled water," says Nelson. What might be large light fittings are shiny metal ceiling water-chiller units. "It's critical to control humidity levels, otherwise they would drip on people working below," adds Kalkhoven.

In most modern office buildings, the concrete structure is entirely hidden behind suspended ceilings and wall panels. Foster believes that the thermal mass of the concrete, if exposed, will ensure the building heats up more slowly in the day and cools less rapidly at night. He is helped by the fact that the Germans have perfected a slab concrete ceiling system that does not need the usual ugly concrete beams to support it.

For those who want something smarter than exposed concrete, Foster provides suspended panels of white cotton, like trampolines, with space between for lights and sprinklers. And inside the door to each room is a nine-button panel that enables you to switch on front or back lights according to need, operate the underfloor heating to choice, and open and close external blinds.

At Mülheim, meanwhile,

Foster has doubled the size of the headquarters of Agiplan, a firm of factory planners. "We have six architects on our staff who could have done a great job, but if we'd chosen one, we would have offended all the others," says the company's Gunther Bergmann. Inside, Foster has done his best-ever staircase. It is dubbed the Skywalk, rising in one straight line from bottom to top, hanging free of the walls, with open treads and glass balustrades.

As soon as the glass roof begins to heat up, a cotton veilarium, such as the ancient Romans put over their theatres, glides across the roof. Every window in the building is motorised, programmed with Teutonic precision to air the building between 7.15 and 7.45 in the morning, and to shut automatically at 7.45 in the evening.

But Foster's biggest surprise

is the new Museum of Design in Essen. Here the 1932 colliery buildings, though completed before Hitler seized power, are so gargantuan that they were actually used as a backdrop for Nazi rallies. Smooth walls of brown brick, framed by rust-red painted steel, conceal the fact that the main building is one huge boilerhouse filled to the roof with vast furnaces, coal-elevators, coal-shutes, conveyor-belts, gangways and miles of copper tubes. "It's enough to give you lung cancer by looking at it," exclaimed one of my companions.

Foster, to his everlasting credit, has retained not only the machinery, but the whole ethos of the place. He has created a piece of sculpture such as Rachel Whiteread could only dream of. Asbestos and dust have been removed but the patina remains. "I call it the Raw Lemon Aesthetic, like biting into a cold sharp

lemon," says Nelson. One vast boiler has been preserved intact, the backs of the others have been cut out to create two tiers of galleries, exposing more bristling pipework in the process.

To draw attention to the displays, the curator has resorted to every trick — up-ended cars, rotating showcases, fabrics displayed like flying carpets. Kitchen tops stuck in coal-hoppers, accompanied by pulsating electronic music. But it works. It has attracted 10,000 visitors in the first four weeks.

Here, as in his Royal Academy galleries, Foster shows that modernism, rigorously applied, can transform old buildings without destroying them — indeed, barely touching them. New Foster elements such as walkways, staircases and floors hang largely free of the structure and the machinery. Whether it is a curator's dream or a nightmare, Foster has ensured the greatest exhibit is the boilerhouse itself, transforming the Ruhr's rusting heritage into a stupendous work of art.

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament
GARY WILLIAMS

Age: 26

Who is he? A Grimsby-born crooner for the Nineties. He brings his acclaimed standards show to the Covent Garden cabaret, Centre Stage, on Friday.

Is there still an audience for Jerome Kern and Irving Berlin? Why not? Look at the success of Harry Connick Jr and his swing big band. Williams' mature vocals have already won over older hands such as DJ David Jacobs, and he is determined to build up the same youth following as young Harry.

Early influences: His earliest memory is hearing his parents' copy of the Frank Sinatra-Nelson Riddle album *Nice 'n' Easy*. A youthful stint in amateur dramatics — singing *Gyps and Dolls*, *West Side Story* and the rest — introduced him to more classics from the Great American Songbook.

Then the working men's clubs beckoned? Yes, a hard slog across the lower reaches of the variety circuit. His first break came with a gig with the BBC Big Band in Hull in November 1995. "It was the first time I'd sung in front of



any big band; I was absolutely terrified."

So it's been a steep learning curve since then? Exactly. When he was invited to take part in a BBC tribute to the American crooner Vic Da-

more, he didn't have the heart to admit that he had never heard of him.

Any recordings yet? He's taken part in an all-star tribute to Frank Loesser and Julie Styne, headed by Barbara Dickson, Gary Wilmot and Ron Moody. He has also put out his own disc, *Lullaby of Broadway*, a low-budget but exuberant journey through Tin Pan Alley.

What's next? Williams wants to work on adding a more contemporary mood to the standard repertoire — without alienating older listeners: "Barbara Dickson gave me good advice when she told me there's no point singing a number if you don't bring something different to it."

CLIVE DAVIS

Foster's new Museum of Design in Essen (bottom), created out of a disused colliery building. The vivid displays (top) have attracted 10,000 visitors in the first four weeks

MUSIC: Hilary Finch on a magical bicentenary Schubertiade in Austria

Leader in the Lieder business

During the decade leading up to this year's great Schubert jubilee, the annual Schubertiade in the Alpine foothills of Austria's Vorarlberg has been expanding almost beyond recognition. In the early days, a select company of cognoscenti would gather in the tiny courtyard of the Palasthof in the village of Hohenems.

Now, the nearby medieval town of Feldkirch, with its 1,000-seater Montforthaus and Music Conservatory, hosts what is a major festival, this year heady with Schubert's 200th birthday celebrations. And although Schubert never visited this tip of Austria, Feldkirch provides the most Schubertian of settings, with a glacial river, a water-mill, linden trees, and even a forest conveniently situated to form an outdoor stage for the festival's *Musik im grünen* concert series.

The air was certainly vibrant. As Robert Holl prepared for his performance of *Die schöne Müllerin* the rushing *Bächlein* was in full spate, and an excited whispering disclosed the presence of a diminutive elderly lady who was a descendent of none other than Schubert's brother, Ferdinand.

Nothing, though, could equal the thrill of Holl's performance. The Dutch bass-baritone gives every atom of himself to the work in hand: robustly meshing with Rudolf Jansen's superb piano playing, the voice movingly revealing every moment of the young miller's unrequited love. There should have been no encores after this; but the Feldkirch audience is insatiable, and Holl obliged with the single perfect sequel: Schubert's visionary *Im Abendrot*.

Alfred Brendel gave a piano recital of comparable stature and, after one of his finest ever performances of Schubert's last piano sonata, was also pestered for encores. I ran for cover: after such a revelatory performance, every bit as rich and strange as Brendel's late Liszt, it was impossible to listen to another note.

Brendel's D537 Sonata, and Four Impromptus earlier in the evening, had also found him in relaxed yet minutely concentrated form.



Schubert celebrated in song and with exhibitions

Meister, and one of them — thanks to the sudden indisposition of Thomas Hampson — found himself unexpectedly projected to the footlights in a sold-out Montforthaus. Stephan Genz (who made a memorable Wignore Hall debut last March) sang a fast, ardent *Winterreise*, teeming with ideas, occasionally technically insecure, but received with warm applause.

Around him, in the hall's foyers, hung countless images of *Winterreise*: the festival had commissioned 11 Austrian and German artists to interpret

Schubert's song-cycle in *Bilder-Zyklen* of their own. Expressionistic woodcuts, fine pencil drawings, and dark visions in charcoal and chalk took their place in a display of iconography and hagiography dominated by an impressive pair of exhibitions in Schloss Achberg and in the Stadtmuseum of nearby Lindau. A loving survey of Schubert's life was complemented by posterity's view of the composer: Franz's spectacles dangled above the manuscript of *Die Forelle*; the Viennese postcard-artist Otto Novak gave way to the canvases of Fischer-Dieskau himself.

Back in Feldkirch, another young baritone and pupil of Fischer-Dieskau, Dietrich Henschel, eloquently performed two arias each from Schubert's operas *Die Zwillingsbrüder* and *Alfonso und Estrella*, with the Camerata Academica of Salzburg conducted by Pinchas Steinberg. That evening close-focused the festival's single but serious shortcoming: in their new venues, a concert or semi-staged performance of one of the composer's many problematic but unnecessarily neglected operas should surely not have been beyond their financial or artistic resources.



Pangia Otagiro, 1250-1270, Monastery of Cheladon

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since 1997

LONDON

BY NATIONAL CONNECTIONS: A touring partnership between the National Theatre, youth theatre companies, ten regional theatres and ST, this year's showcase for youth theatre at the National features 12 plays by new writing talents, including *Oliver* for performances on July 14, 15, SE1 10 000 2222, 7.30pm.

MELVYN TAN: The distinguished pianist returns to the first time, playing Chopin and Liszt, at Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-353 2141), tonight, 8pm.

SHE KNOWS YOU KNOW: The story of Hyde Park, music hall star and performer by Alan Farnham, the late John Gielgud, at the National Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 10.30pm. Until July 22.

SUNDAY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The trombonist Christian Lindberg joins the Swedish ensemble for a concert of music by Beethoven, Brahms, Liszt, and others, at the Royal Albert Hall, Kensington, W8 (0171-404 7075), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm. Until July 22.

BIRMINGHAM: André Thomas conducts the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra in a concert of classical and popular songs, including *Swing Low Sweet Chariot*, at the University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, B15 2TT, Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

BIRMINGHAM

THE HERBAL BED: Peter Whelan's touring play, *The Herbal Bed*, plays at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

THE MAIDS: Niamh Cusack and Vicky Fox play the title roles, with Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as the seductive Simon, in a production of *The Maids*, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

A MIDWINTER NIGHT'S DREAM: Rachel Kavanagh's delightful production, set in the comedy and the tragedy, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

SKYLIGHT: David Hare's witty and elegant play, *Skylight*, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

SMOKEY JOE'S CAFE: *"The Songs of Lovers and Strangers"*, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

NEW RELEASES

CITY OF INDUSTRY (18): A gripping tale of industrial espionage in the Midlands, starring John Lynch, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

JOUR DE PETIT (18): French postmodernist Jean-Louis Bally's first feature film, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

ONE FINE DAY (18): Two single people, a juggle and a career, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

RUMBLE IN THE BROWNS (15): A gripping tale of industrial espionage in the Midlands, starring John Lynch, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

UNWIND THE TOWNS (18): A gripping tale of industrial espionage in the Midlands, starring John Lynch, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

ART GALLERIES

PARTON GALLERY 8 J4 - 140: Edward La Barre and Patricia La Barre, 11th July, 7.30pm; mat 2.30pm.

OPERA & BALLET

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Mezey

of more than 100 local singers, at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, 11th July, 7.30pm.

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Star trumpet players on top form in London and Birmingham; Alice Cooper in theatrical mood



King of the trumpet after 40 years, Herb Alpert (centre) is still an active player in the popular music business

Blowing fireworks

Twelve months ago Herb Alpert dipped a toe into the British audience pool for the first time in 22 years. He found the waters so welcoming that he went home to tell his pals and dive back into the same resort a year on.

Last July Alpert brought a six-piece band and played a delightfully intimate show at the Jazz Café. Suitably emboldened, he returned to London last Friday for an Independence Day fiesta at an all-seated Empire. With the July 4 musical fireworks on display, it did not stay all-seated for long.

At 62, and an active player in the industry for 40 years, Alpert remains a remarkably productive musician. *Passion Dance*, his latest release for A&M Records, comes just a year after his last set for the label, *Second Wind*. Alpert founded Almo in 1994 with his lifelong business partner Jerry Moss, with whom he had created the tapestry of contemporary music that is A&M Records.

Moss, in the audience here, must have marvelled at his friend's relaxed, artful performance and urbane stewardship of a brilliant ensemble. Alpert calls this group the best he has ever worked with, a testimonial worth having from an artist whose *Tijuana Brass* once helped him to four simultaneous Top Ten albums in America in his dizzying successful days of the mid-1960s.

The trumpet king's latin affair is as accurate as *Passion Dance*, an affectionate embrace of the irresistible rhythms that are Alpert's hallmark in that halcyon period. Marvellous musicians from Cuba, Peru and Colombia ignited the evening, as they did the album, with the Latin American virtuoso's inimitable skill of playing as if his life depended on it — and also of whipping up a real

carnival atmosphere in the process. The band opened in a veritable Brazilian raiment of instrumentation before the svelte Alpert shuffled in to the contagiously funky introduction of *Rise*. Thereafter the focus was firmly on the new album, with passionate contributions indeed from fellow trumpeter Humberto Ramirez, pianist Joe Rotondi Jr, keyboard player Otmaro Ruiz and the entire high-octane collective.

With the mood created by pieces like *Que Pasa Mr Jones?* and *Baila Conmigo* (*Dance With Me*, a medley of 1960s hits was a bonus rather than a necessity. But the group made this another triumph with inventively sympathetic rearrangements of *Spanish Flea*, *A Taste Of Honey*, *Tijuana* and the rest. Alpert exorcised his incongruously but endearingly with *This Guy's In Love With You*, one more ingredient in a recipe of mixed herbs and latin spices.

PAUL SEXTON

Familiarity breeds content

More often than not, the headlines on today's jazz festivals breeze into town at the last minute, play a percussive set and breeze out again en route to the next town. In a refreshing departure from fashion, this year's HMV Birmingham Jazz Festival featured its principal attraction, trumpeter Clark Terry's Quintet, for four successive nights at Ronnie Scott's.

The benefits were immediately obvious. The band was relaxed and settled and, as the residency went on, comfortably took the measure of the room and its audience. Nevertheless, there was no sense of relaxing too far. From the first notes, the attack of the whole group was aggressive and cohesive, anchored by the crisp drumming of Sylvia Cuencas.

She has been in the quietest for four years, after recording with the Vienna Art Orchestra and Ron McClure. Her rapid tempo changes on *Mood Indigo* proved that she has become one of Terry's most adroit accompanists.

Pianist Don Friedman's association with Terry goes back to the early 1970s. With Cuencas and bassist Marcus McLaurie he provided consistency to Terry's thought-out backing for the front-line musicians, seasoned with some unaccompanied piano choruses that varied the rhythmic and tonal mix.

The saxophonist David Glasser has matured into a strong individual jazz voice. He sits firmly in the post-Charlie Parker school, but with a Parker style that develops the style of altoists such as Lou Donaldson and Leo Wright. He is a perfect counterpart for Terry, his ensemble passages merging into a single voice, providing near-punctuations between the rhythm solos, including intricate quotes that dissolved into delighted giggles from the leader.

With so tight a band, a lesser trumpeter might have been tempted to coast through his sets. Terry, however, is every bit the star, and produced some powerful playing. The growl of his plunger-muted trumpet solo on *I Want a Little Girl* echoed his work with Duke Ellington, while his furries of notes on *Angelhorn* contrasted explosive phrases with long passages that dropped almost to a whisper. This was the Clark Terry of old, and the virtuoso brass player his audience had come to hear and cheer.

He revelled in being the showman, from urbane announcements to his outrageous vocals, even turning adversity into a virtue when a clicking fingerhorn valve was brought to the mike as an *ad hoc* percussion effect. Full marks to Birmingham for creating the ideal setting to hear him stretch out as a soloist, and for bringing in a complete and well-drilled working band rather than an all-star collection of soloists lacking such cohesion.

ALYN SHIPTON

Ham cuts the mustard

I HAD expected an audience of young goths, seduced by Placebo and Marilyn Manson, to pay homage to a founding member of the Big Blokes in Maccarsa club. Instead, this is a night out for those who remember him from the first time around, punching the air to the prehistoric strains of *Eighteen*. To the left a group of women looking like Gwen Taylor's character from the TV series *Duty Free* sings back to Cooper as he points the microphone at the Apollo audience: 'I'm 18 and I like it.' Ironies pile up like cars on a motorway. Cooper is dressed in a big girl's blouse and leather pants. He doesn't look bad, considering he spent a good deal of the 1970s drinking the likes of Keith Moon and John Lennon under the table.

He tears through spirited renditions of his horror metal classics. Each song has a cheap prop to accompany it. Like a children's party magician he has a big box at the back of the stage full of scarves and walking sticks. Gone, though, are the days of guillotine and fake blood. For *Billion Dollar Babies* a simple cutlass decorated with

dollar bills suffices. His young backing band thunders away, grinning as though they are undergoing surgery without benefit of anaesthetic during the guitar solos. I laugh, but then realise that such rock god posturing is no worse than that purveyed by the likes of the Sex Pistols.

Cooper then dives into the cloud bank of mid-career tedium that makes up the bulk of the show, the songs he recorded at the time when upstairs such as Mötley Crüe had stolen his make-up and his thunder. He sits on a bin to sing the appalling ballad *Only Women Bleed*. His facial expressions — from cynical sneers to hatred and disgust — hardly make him Laurence Olivier, but his famed sense of the theatrical keeps us going. Just as I'm nodding off, he launches into *Gutter Cats vs the Jets*, complete with a stage full of thick-set extras and a gang fight which Cooper wins during a "he's-behind-you" striptease lit by flickering strobes. Men in white coats appear and put him in a straitjacket for *The Ballad of Dwight Fry*. Thankfully, he breaks free for *School's Out* and a stirring *Electric Blue*.

Most of the audience, sensing that his highest British hit has been saved for the end, clears off quickly so as not to have to pay the babysitter for an extra hour. And, let's face it, the old man has made some old men and women very happy.

JOHN MCCREADY

ART GALLERIES

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THEATRES

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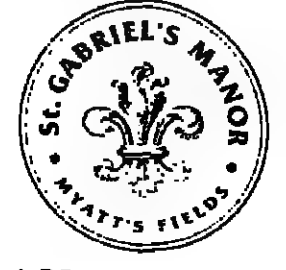
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DEPUTY PROFESSIONAL REVIEWS MANAGER

WESTMINSTER C £16K

The Institution of Civil Engineers is the world's premier Engineering Institution. Founded in 1818, it is an authority on infrastructure issues whose opinions are widely sought by key opinion formers and the media.

The Professional Reviews Department is responsible for the day to day smooth running of the Professional Reviews which are held twice a year in the UK and once a year overseas.

As Deputy Performance Review Manager you will be required to receive and check applications for Reviews in the UK and assist with the Reviews in London and attend sessions at the provincial centres as necessary.

HEALTH & SAFETY CO-ORDINATOR

WESTMINSTER C £16K

Reporting to the Building Services Manager, you will play a key role in the management of all Health & Safety aspects of One Great George Street. You will be responsible for the distribution of all Health & Safety information and literature to employees and recording the results of all Health & Safety assessments which the Institution is legally obliged to make. A key requirement of this job is to control and develop the systems used to maintain and monitor implemented procedures. You will also provide comprehensive administrative and secretarial support to the Building Services Manager.

The successful successful candidates for each position should have three years administrative experience. Good communication skills are essential, as is the ability to prioritise and work under pressure. The applicant should have experience of using Word for Windows, Excel and database systems.

Please send your application by 18 July 1997 to Mrs Catherine Manning, Personnel Manager, The Institution of Civil Engineers, One Great George Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3AA.



THE INSTITUTION OF CIVIL ENGINEERS

P.A TO C.E.O

The young CEO of this privately owned Hotel Group requires an energetic PA with a naturally sunny disposition and a good telephone manner to be based at their busy Mayfair Head Office. The ability to manage a busy and varied workload, to think ahead and work under pressure are vital. You will arrange travel, meetings and handle the diary as well as a considerable amount of personal and charitable work. A committed, precise and organised approach is essential. Skills 100/60.

Excellent salary and benefits available depending on relevant experience.

Please apply in writing enclosing a full CV, detailing your salary expectations to:

Deirdre Donohoe
ATHENAEUM HOTEL &
APARTMENTS
116 PICCADILLY
LONDON W1V 0BJ

BARNET AT WORK

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

£18,267 - £21,978

Suitable for Job Sharing.

Help the Max

A minimum of five years' experience at senior level is required for this challenging post in which you will be working at the very highest level of the Council.

With responsibility for the management of the Chief Executive's office, and the supervision of 4 staff, you will be expected to prioritise work on a day-to-day basis and adopt a proactive approach to the review and development of administrative procedures.

You will also be personally responsible for arranging meetings and appointments, attending as necessary to take minutes, for organising the provision of appropriate briefing notes, and for ensuring that the Chief Executive's office maintains the highest level of customer care.

A mature attitude and a flexible approach are required for this post together with an appreciation of the need to maintain the highest standards of confidentiality.

For an informal discussion about the post why not speak to your future boss, Call Max Carter, Chief Executive on 0181-359 2000.

Application forms, Write to Human Resources Unit, The Town Hall, The Burroughs, Hendon, London NW4 4BG.

Telephone: 0181-359 2699 (24 hr).

Hearing difficulties? A special minicom service is available for you on 0181-359 2744.

Please quote: HA318.

Closing Date: 25 July 1997.

Interview Date: 7 August 1997.

We welcome applications from suitably qualified people regardless of gender, marital status, religious belief, race, age, disability or whether they are lesbian or gay.

BARNET
LONDON BOROUGH COUNCIL

Decanter

The World's Best Wine Magazine

Decanter, The World's Best Wine Magazine, is looking for an Advertising Assistant/Secretary to work with its busy advertising team and provide back up support together with responsibility for Classified sales. Enthusiasm and ability to work on own initiative essential. Languages an advantage. Apply in writing stating current salary to: Islay Clegg, Decanter Magazine, 583 Fulham Road, London SW6 5UA.

SKO CHALET STAFF WITH A DIFFERENCE

The Ski Company, undisputed leader in luxury skiing holidays, is looking for a limited number of outstanding couples to manage its chalets in the Alps.

For the right people, we offer an exceptional opportunity for career advancement, year round employment and the benefits of running your own chalet, within the framework of a young, successful and expanding company. Terms and remuneration are excellent.

You will preferably be aged 25-40 years with the ambition to run your own business in the future. One of you would be an experienced cook or professional chef and one should be able to speak either French or German. You should be hospitable, generous and friendly, with a sense of professional pride.

Please write with CV to Tony Elliott, The Ski Company, Skene Square House, Holborn Place, London SW1W 8NS.

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

TOP SALARY IN SUNNY ENFIELD

Accomplished PA required for the challenging and varied role which will include administrative duties and the opportunity to work on your own initiative. You will need to be over 30 and computer literate with WP skills. You should have good organisational skills, the ability to communicate with people and an excellent telephone manner. In return we offer an excellent salary with benefits and a healthy non-smoking environment.

Please apply with CV to Martin Morris, Promo Furniture PLC, Barn Road, Enfield, Middx, EN1 1SL or initially telephone 0181 804 3434. (No Agencies please)

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Small Property Company

PA/Secretary to MD

Efficient and self-motivated

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Computer skills essential

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Based centrally in Clapham with a

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(F) 0171 920 0785

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The ideal candidate will be over

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Please apply with CV to

William Williams,

8 Park Lane,

London W1A 2AA.

PARIBAS

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Excellent banking benefits

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Banque Paribas is a leading international investment bank operating in 60 countries and employing in excess of 10,000 people. We currently have secretarial opportunities on our Fixed Income trading floor ranging from team secretarial (ref: CA1) to more senior level secretarial/PA roles (ref: CA2).

The successful candidates will have trading floor experience and must have GCSEs (or equivalent) in English language and mathematics. Candidates will have strong technical skills: Word 6.0, Excel and PowerPoint and will be prepared to work under pressure to meet demanding deadlines while maintaining an efficient and organised approach.

There are also occasional secretarial opportunities to work in our Paris office (ref: CA3) for candidates with fluent French.

To apply please send a full CV and salary details (quoting reference) to: Catherine Anderson, Human Resources Department, Banque Paribas, 33 Wigmore Street, London W1H 0BN.

Closing date for receipt of applications: Wednesday, 16th July 1997

ASSISTANT COMPANY SECRETARY

£21,500

Marie Curie Cancer Care is the UK's leading cancer care charity playing a significant role in improving the quality of life for people with cancer.

Marie Curie Cancer Care is the most comprehensive and diverse provider of cancer and palliative care services in the UK, with 11 specialist palliative care Centres, a nationwide home nursing service for cancer patients, and excellent clinical and laboratory research and education programmes. Our turnover and expenditure is approximately £6m.

The role will involve Board and committee servicing liaising with solicitors and undertaking legal research relating to issues affecting the Charity. The post holder will be expected to deputise for the Company Secretary in his absence and have overall responsibility for maintaining records of property issues and assist with co-ordinating health and safety matters charity wide.

The ideal candidate will have a basic understanding of Company Secretarial matters whilst also having experience of minute taking at Board and Committee levels. Reporting to the Finance Director and Company Secretary, this post will suit a party qualified student of the ICSA. Alternatively, someone who has this experience, is interested in specialising in this field and who has the ability and enthusiasm to learn quickly, should also apply.

Candidates should have good organisational and interpersonal skills, coupled with the ability to use their initiative and work under pressure, whilst maintaining a good sense of humour at all times.

Applicants should note that they may be required to work occasional unsociable hours.

If you wish to apply for this position please write with a full CV to:

Vanessa Stanley, Senior Personnel Officer, Marie Curie Cancer Care, 28 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8QG

Closing date: 23rd July 1997

CHARITY REG NO: 207994.

Marie Curie
Cancer Care

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Prison GP Practice in the

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position in multi-faceted

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variety of patients, including

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Practitioner, 74 The Park

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Please apply to Alan

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or email to alan@ac

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Courant en Français?

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Our client is looking for up to six bilingual PAs to operate at the highest possible level in this new worldwide organisation. Opportunities exist not only to support the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, but also the company's Vice-Presidents - where your specialist experience in either an HR, Communications, Legal or Finance environment would be a distinct advantage. Successful candidates will be encouraged to make the most of their initiative, efficiency and flair for communication.

The rewards and benefits will fully reflect our client's position as a leading multinational company... and yours as a talented, confident and accomplished individual.

To take the next step towards securing one of these exciting and prestigious opportunities, please write with your CV to Gray Millhouse at the Scott Edgar Group, Paragon House, 75 Farringdon Road, London EC4M 3JH quoting reference 59097 on the envelope. We'd also like a short paragraph on why you think your skills would interest us - in French, naturally.

Closing date: 16th July 1997.



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PA/Secretary

Salary: £15,500 - £17,800 inc.

(depending on experience)

Royal Brompton Hospital is a world renowned centre specialising in the care of patients with heart and lung disease. It is closely linked with the National Heart and Lung Institute of Imperial College School of Medicine.

A new post is available as PA and Secretary to Professor Underwood (Director of Nuclear Medicine and Head of Academic Imaging). This creates the rare opportunity to set up and equip a new office. The work will be varied and interesting involving both clinical and academic responsibilities. The successful candidate will be an experienced secretary who wants to extend his or her role. Experience of work in similar areas is desirable, but evidence of reliability, initiative and creativity are essential.

For an information pack and application form, please contact the Human Resources Dept., Royal Brompton Hospital, Sydney Street, London SW3 6NP, or tel: 0171 351 9888 (24 hour answerphone) quoting ref: TL113. Closing date: 23 July 1997.

BOOKKEEPER/ ADMINISTRATOR

c.£18,000

Shepherds Bush

An ideal opportunity for a mature professional, with a strong accounts/bookkeeping background, to join the successful UK arm of a major international company. It's a key support role, with added administrative responsibilities, involving telephone and office duties, requiring a proven all rounder, who has a good understanding of computerised bookkeeping systems (Sage) and PC applications.

To apply, please write with full CV to our consultants at CPA, Capital House, 37 Boyne Avenue, Hendon, London NW4 2JL. Tel: 0181 203 1000. Fax: 0181 203 8020.

NOT FOR THE FAINT HEARTED!

Senior Secretary/PA for Senior Partner West End Law Practice. Extraordinary diverse international and commercial work. Plenty of activity but must be articulate and well presented with organisational skills. Good shorthand or speed writing and must be computer literate.

Top salary.

Please apply with CV to Box No 6221

PA TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

Salary £neg

A leading direct marketing company requires a well organised PA to work for the Managing Director to assist in the day to day running of a young, dynamic, successful company.

If you are looking for an excellent job with challenge, responsibility and opportunity, have a good knowledge of Word for Windows & PowerPoint, are accurate typist and able to work under pressure, please write, enclosing a CV, to: Nick Harris, KCD Marketing Services, Gordon House, 14 Connaught Place, London W1B 3EP. No Agencies Please.

COOPER TURBOCOMPRESSOR

SECRETARY/OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

To maintain the impressive growth of sales of the company's range of centrifugal compressors, we require a self motivated and enthusiastic Secretary/Office Administrator for our new office located at Harlington, Hays, to support the company's goal to develop and maximise sales within Europe, building upon the original success of our licence.

The appointed candidate will provide secretarial support to the Director, European Sales and office staff as required. In addition, they will be required to take control of the day to day administration of the office to ensure its smooth running and the availability of services needed by other staff.

Significant experience working at a senior level and the ability to work on their own initiative is essential. The chosen candidate would be required to have the following:

- computer literacy (Windows 95 and Microsoft Office 97)
- European language skills
- proven secretarial skills
- confidentiality is essential as it is a professional approach to work

Written applications enclosing a full CV and salary details, should be sent to: Mr. H.G. Robertson, Cooper Turbo Compressor, Langlands Place, Kelvin South Business Park, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 0YF.

Director's PA

£20K

West London

Taylor Nelson AGB plc is the UK's largest international market information company listed on the London Stock Exchange. Reporting to the Finance Director, we are seeking to recruit an experienced secretary to provide high quality support in the smooth and efficient running of the office.

This position will demand an assertive personality with good administrative and secretarial skills, with previous experience (at least one year) of working at a senior level. There are opportunities to progress and a high level person will enjoy this friendly, fast moving environment. You must have fluent typing abilities and a good working knowledge of Windows 95.

To apply, please send your CV together with current salary details to: Tamsy Law, Personnel, Taylor Nelson AGB Plc, Westgate, London W5 1UA.

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£25,000 Parkers

secretarial support, including diary management and direct involvement in a variety of projects. The successful individual will need to have first class communication skills, with impeccable presentation and at least 4 years' secretarial experience.

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Angela Mortimer

The company: Long established stockbroking firm, London Head Office in beautiful City location close to the River Thames.

The role: PE to Private Client Director with genuine involvement. He is a real character having for a significant period been in therapy alongside him.

The candidate: Senior secretarial experience shorthand or speed-writing for minute-taking excellent secretarial skills including ECR & Word & commitment and energy.

PA
TO
Director

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P.A. SECRETARY TO DIRECTOR OF I
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Full PA role with plenty of opportunity to advance in our own industry. Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Previous experience in WordPerfect (W), Word, Excel, MS Schedule to Advance - Spoken French an asset.

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Opportunity to get involved in management of large P.A. You'll need initiative and strong W1 skills. Excellent communication and ability to work deadlines and legal knowledge an advantage.

Please contact Marlene Brown or Kristal Lee Brown
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the strength of
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Our consultants look forward to your call

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True Buddies!
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International PR company seek an enthusiastic team player to work for 3 Account Executives in their lively consumer department. Support the team in everything from co-ordinating meetings, to creating presentations. Are you outgoing able to hold your own in this demanding environment? If so and you have at least 1 years secretarial experience, Word, PowerPoint and 50 wpm typing are looking for the next step in your secretarial career call Alison Scott on 0171 434 4512.



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Career opportunity for a confident and bright individual to join the research department of this well known American investment bank. Duties will include fact finding for the analysts, liaising with clients and the sales team and use of Bloomberg, Reuters and the Internet for analysis as well as secretarial support. Financial experience, current SPAs and W4W/Excel/Powerpoint are all required. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.



Crone Corkill
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Would you enjoy working within an environment where major international deals are made? Use your Apple Mac experience to work at the highest levels of responsibility in this position.

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Would you enjoy a fast paced environment with a Media Director? You'll need good Windows and PowerPoint and a great sense of humour.

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Would you like the security of a major organisation, but working with a young partner? If you have good Word, Excel and PowerPoint, join this fabulous team now.

Please call Lorette on (0171) 836 5666 NOW!

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Elizabeth Hunt
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A fantastic opportunity for a bright, flexible assistant with strong communication skills. This challenging 1:1 role will require constant juggling of priorities and responsibilities, with good career progression. Presentation skills and 50wpm. Please telephone 0171 495 2321

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Graduate calibre PA is required for the Managing Partner of this professional international practice. Extensive foreign travel, itineraries and high profile liaison. Suit committed "ambassador". Must be used to senior level and tight deadlines. 50 wpm. Please telephone 0171 495 2321

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Utilise your supervisory skills gained within an administrative based environment in training & development of this global management IT consultancy. You will control all the financial accounts, develop systems and course organise. MS Office 95. Please telephone 0171 495 2321

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The Comfort Zone!

£20,000 + med + bonus + prp

This exceptional opportunity is in a very busy Greenham house in W4, need of a full time PA to work for a busy director - there's lots of admin as well as secretarial support and their clients are some of the best! You must be bright, well spoken and confident and really enjoy being the no.2. If you have good typing (60wpm) and are between 22-35 yrs (young, energetic, with some secretarial experience) and would like to be really appreciated by this very friendly, young team, call us now!

18-21 Jernyn Street, St James's, London SW1W 6HP
Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 3260

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Telephone: 0171 734 7341 Fax: 0171 734 3260

OFFICE
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£25,000

Our Chairman is currently seeking a dynamic 25-35 year old pro-active Office Manager/PA with strong communication skills to run our busy administration team. Excellent secretarial skills using W4W and Excel are essential as are good organisational skills. Duties are varied including facilities management, negotiating with suppliers, personnel and staff supervision etc. A flexible attitude and sense of humour are essential. If you are interested in this young expanding, fun environment, please call Sarah on 0171 493 3385.

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The Group Human Resources Director of an international Communications Group requires an experienced Personnel Assistant. Based in their corporate headquarters, you will handle large volumes of sensitive and confidential information and liaise with senior members within the industry as well as providing full secretarial support. The successful candidate will thrive in a pressured and high profile role which offers autonomy and responsibility. Skills of 80/90 required.

Committed to equal opportunities

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Susan Doughty Recruitment

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Tel: 0171-491 7911 Fax: 0171-491 7921

Kensington PA
£20-25,000

Do you want to enjoy going to work but you're not looking for a demanding career? This small and friendly company is looking for a competent Secretary to assist its Managing Director. The role involves a lot of typing and a good knowledge of the company's business. The successful candidate will be a young, energetic, and reliable person with a good knowledge of the company's business. The role involves a lot of typing and a good knowledge of the company's business. The successful candidate will be a young, energetic, and reliable person with a good knowledge of the company's business.

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0171 824 8821

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from £18,500
+ Exc Bens

A leading Consultancy are looking to recruit accomplished Receptionists to provide a high quality service. The roles involve front-line Reception, organisation of conference rooms, taxis, administration and database work. You must have previous reception experience, proven organisation skills and the ability to work unsupervised. A smart, business-like appearance is essential. In return you will enjoy a fabulous working environment, a varied and involving role and excellent remuneration/benefits package.

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SENIOR PA'S
£18,000 - £20,000 pa.

We currently have several positions for senior PA's who like to get involved in a variety of tasks. The positions are in Travel (GC), Investigations (WC), and Accounts (WC). Skills and W4W, PowerPoint & Excel 95. Age 25-35. For further info call Wendy Rother, La Cote House, La Cote Road, London W14 9NS (Fax 0171-420 8044).

0171 420 8008

0171 420 8044

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

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YOUNG PA £19,000 + MORTGAGE

International bank close to Liverpool Street need a young PA to work for three managers in their Private Banking divisions. You will need to have at least a years experience in a banking environment and W4W experience is essential. Excellent prospects and high benefits including a mortgage, 25% shareholding and a big bonus. Age 20-35.

ADMIN PA £25,000 + MORTGAGE

An investment banking group near Canary Wharf need a secretary to three directors. They work in project finance and whilst experience in this area would be an advantage, any banking experience will suffice. In addition to providing secretarial support you will also have a variety of interesting and varied projects. Excellent benefits package. Age 25-40.

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Court of Appeal

Law Report July 9 1997

Court of Appeal

Dismissing child case after threat Deciding employee's place of work

In re B (a Minor) (Contact: Stepfather's opposition)
Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Ward
[Judgment June 11]

In an appropriate case an application for contact could be dismissed on a hearing for directions without investigation of the merits of the application.

Where on such a hearing, the stepfather with whom the child lived threatened to reject her and her mother if the hearing continued, the judge was entitled to conclude, without further investigation, that the threat represented a risk to the child which justified dismissal of the natural father's application for contact.

The Court of Appeal so held dismissing the father's appeal from Mr Justice Johnson who had dismissed his application for contact with his child, B, at the directions hearing.

B, who was born in 1988, lived with her mother and stepfather following her parents' divorce and her mother's remarriage. The stepfather expressed strong opposition to the father's application which he considered to be motivated by a desire to destroy the marriage and indicated that if contact were ordered B could no longer live with him.

On the directions hearing, at which the father, although not present was represented by counsel, the stepfather became excited

indicating that if the proceedings continued he would reject both B and her mother.

That attitude was communicated to the judge by the mother's counsel who was satisfied that it was sincere.

Counsel for the Official Solicitor considered that the threat was of the utmost gravity to B, representing not merely a risk but a substantial probability that the hearing continued B would be adversely affected by the home being divided.

The judge, according to the joint submission of counsel for the mother and for the Official Solicitor, dismissed the father's application, concluding that if he did not do so there was a real risk that the child would be in danger of harm by removal from a stable and satisfactory home.

Mr John Mitchell for the father, Miss L. Carter for the mother, Miss Anna Paffley, QC and Mr Justin Agnew for the Official Solicitor.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the short question was whether the judge was justified in summarily dismissing the father's application when the matter had been listed for directions, no notice had been given to the father of a possible application to dismiss, the father had not been present and the sole ground had been the attitude of the stepfather, the justification for which had been untested in cross-examination.

The court's general policy was clear: contact between a child and its natural parent was something which should be maintained wherever that was practical.

Equally clear was the court's general attitude to threats: see *In re O* [Contact: Imposition of conditions] [1995] 2 FLR 124 in which Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, had set out the familiar but fundamental principles applicable.

The court's powers were extensive and Mr Mitchell had properly accepted that in an appropriate case an application for contact could be dismissed on a directions hearing.

In the exercise of that power the court had to bear in mind that the more draconian the order and the more unusual the situation, the greater the need for it to be justified by the facts of the case.

On the material before the judge it was not a case where there was any suggestion that the stepfather was acting other than bona fide according to his beliefs in adopting his unyielding approach. There was no suggestion that he was seeking to blackmail the court.

The judge was placed on the horns of a fearful dilemma. He was acutely conscious of the injustice to the father and equally sharply aware of the risk of harm to the child if the stepfather

implemented his threat which counsel for the mother and the Official Solicitor believed to be real.

The court fully understood and did not criticise the fact that the judge decided as he did. That was not to say that each member of the panel would have responded to the crisis in the same way.

The court saw the force of the submission that the judge should have insisted on hearing the stepfather explain his concerns and on the father hearing the judge explain why it was so crucial for the child's sake that he should not be denied the opportunity to know his father.

However, the court concluded that there was no error in principle in the judge's summary dismissal of the father's application at the directions hearing. It was within his discretion to do so.

As for the exercise of that discretion and the balancing exercise he conducted the court was completely satisfied that whichever way the judge had decided he would have been open to criticism.

There was no right answer to the dilemma confronting him. It was therefore impossible to conclude that his decision was outside the generous ambit within which reasonable disagreement was possible.

Solicitors: Challinors, Lyon Clark, West Bromwich; Crust Lane & Davis, Ilford; Official Solicitor.

High Table Ltd v Horst and Others

Before Lord Justice Evans, Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Hobhouse
[Judgment July 1]

For the purposes of redundancy, an employee's place of work was not to be decided solely by reference to the contract of employment, but by reference to the place where the employee actually worked.

The place where the employee was employed was to be established by a factual inquiry taking into account the employee's fixed place of work and the nature of his contractual terms, which might assist.

The inclusion of mobility clauses in contracts of employment were not to be used to defeat genuine redundancy claims.

The Court of Appeal so held when unanimously allowing an appeal by the employer, High Table Ltd, from an order of the Employment Appeal Tribunal (Mr Justice Butterfield, Lord Glavin of Clee and Mrs. J. M. Mathias) on April 23, 1996 allowing an appeal by the employees, Mrs Christine Horst, Mrs Jean Jowett and Mrs Angela Barley, from a South London Industrial Tribunal which on March 29, 1994 had held that the employees had been dismissed for redundancy.

Section 81 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act 1978 provides: "(2) ... an employee who is dismissed shall be taken to be dismissed by reason of redundancy if the dismissal is attributable wholly or mainly to (a) the fact that his employer has ceased, or intends to cease, to carry on business for the purposes of which he was employed ... or (b) the fact that the requirements of that business for employees to carry out work of a particular kind ... in the place where he was so employed, have ceased or diminished or are expected to cease or diminish."

Mr Ashley Underwood for the employers; Mr Declan O'Dempsey for the employees.

LORD JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that the employer's business was that of providing catering services for companies and firms in the City of London and elsewhere.

The employees were employed as silver service waitresses working from 10am to 4pm on weekdays at Hill Samuel in the City until dismissed in February 1993 pursuant to redundancy notices served on them on January 29. The employees accepted that a mobility clause was to be treated as included in the three employees' contracts of employment.

That clause stated: "Your place of work is as stated in your letter of appointment ... However, given the nature of our business, it is sometimes necessary to transfer

staff on a temporary or permanent basis to another location."

In Mrs Barley's letter of appointment she was appointed from January 1961 as waitress to a City company other than Hill Samuel, but she ceased to work there after a year and worked at Hill Samuel for over four years until dismissed.

Ms Jowett by her letter was appointed from April 1982 as a "training waitress" and no normal workplace was specified but she worked at Hill Samuel for over four years until dismissed.

Only Mrs Horst's letter specified that she was appointed to Hill Samuel from July 1988 and she worked there until her dismissal.

In 1992 Hill Samuel made a number of its own staff redundant and that reduced its requirement for the employer's services. Consequently, the employer had to reduce its services and the staff providing them but the three employees were not then affected.

Shortly before Christmas 1992 Hill Samuel told the employer that there would have to be more cuts in the catering budget. That necessitated a substantial reappraisal by the employer of its services to Hill Samuel with inevitable reductions in staff including the three employees.

They sought compensation for unfair dismissal or unfair selection for redundancy and each gave Hill Samuel as her place of employment. Each contended that she received a letter stating she was to be made redundant due to staff restructuring and costs savings within Hill Samuel, that she worked for the employer and not Hill Samuel, that no effort was made to deploy her at other City firms with which the employer had

contracts and that staff with a short record of service were allowed to stay on.

His Lordship said that one of the main issues that had emerged was whether section 81(2) imposed a contractual test or a primarily factual test to determine "the place where [the employee] was so employed". That was an issue of law turning on the true construction of the statutory language.

Mr O'Dempsey pointed out that in section 81(2) the word "employed" was used and submitted that that connoted "employment" under the contract of employment. He said that if the contract contained a mobility clause allowing the employer to require the employee to work elsewhere, "the place where [the employee] was so employed" extended to every place where the employee might be required to work.

Mr Underwood submitted that the words clearly referred to the place where the employee actually worked and not where in theory the employer could require the employee to work.

His Lordship said that the question posed by the statutory language - where was the employee employed by the employer for the purposes of the business? - was one to be answered primarily by a consideration of the factual circumstances which obtained in the case.

If an employee had worked in only one location under his contract of employment for the purposes of the employer's business, it defied common sense to widen the extent of the place where he was so

employed merely because of the chance of a mobility clause.

Of course the refusal by the employer to obey a lawful requirement for the employee to move might constitute a valid reason for dismissal, but the issue of dismissal, redundancy and reasonableness in the actions of an employer should be kept distinct.

It would be unfortunate if the law were to encourage the inclusion of mobility clauses in contracts of employment to defeat genuine redundancy claims. Parliament had recognised the importance of the employee's right to a redundancy payment.

If the work of the employee for the employer had involved a change of location, as would be the case where the nature of the work required the employee to go from place to place, then the contract of employment might be helpful to determine the extent of the place where the employee was employed.

But it could not be right to let the contract be the sole determinant, regardless of where the employee actually worked for the employer. The question was the place of employment was one that could safely be left to the good sense of the industrial tribunal.

It was plain that the place where three employees were employed by their employer was Hill Samuel and that there was a redundancy situation there which caused the employees to be dismissed. The order of the industrial tribunal was restored.

LORD JUSTICE HOBHOUSE and LORD JUSTICE EVANS agreed.

Solicitors: Mander & Co, Old Hanson & Co.

Pensioner's interest promise must be kept

Director of Savings v Woolf Same v Kear and Another
Before Mr Justice Cresswell
[Judgment June 20]

When calculating interest on a pensioner's guaranteed income bond where the prospective state that the rate applicable would be "fixed and guaranteed for the first five years a bond was held" at 7 per cent a year, the interest provisions should be construed so as to give effect to that promise.

Thus of two possible constructions of the clause concerned with daily interest, including the problem of leap years, the construction which produced the promised rate of 7 per cent should be preferred to that which produced some slightly different rate.

Mr Justice Cresswell so stated in the Commercial Court, in the Queen's Bench Division, when dismissing appeals by the Director of Savings, Mr David Baker, of the Department for Savings, of the Treasury, pursuant to section 12 of the Arbitration Act 1979 against (i) the award of the arbitrator of national savings, Mr David

Farrington, in favour of Mrs N. Woolf dated November 19, 1996 and (ii) the award of the arbitrator in favour of Mr and Mrs John Kear dated October 29, 1996.

Mr Arthur W. H. Charles and Mr Michael Gibson for the director, the respondents did not appear and were not represented; Mr Ian Glick, QC, as amicus curiae.

MR JUSTICE CRESSWELL said that the facts of the two cases were very similar and the same result must follow in both cases. The central issue was what was the correct way of calculating interest on the bond.

The prospectus governing the bond provided: "Interest and UK Income Tax ... 3 Bonds earn interest at a rate fixed for five years at a time ... The rate applicable to each series of bonds under this prospectus will be published in the *London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes*."

"4 ... Interest is earned for each day your bond is held. This includes the day of purchase but not the day of redemption. Interest is earned on a daily basis at 1/365 of the annual interest rate for each

day for 1/365 of the interest rate for each day in a leap year."

The relevant edition of the *Edinburgh Gazette* stated: "Series 3 ... Bonds will be on sale from January 20, 1996. The interest rate, fixed and guaranteed for the first five years a bond is held, is 7 per cent per annum."

It was the director's case that the reference to a "leap year" in clause 4 was a reference to a calendar year. The arbitrator found that "leap year" meant any period of 12 consecutive months, and not necessarily commencing on January 1, but which included a leap day.

His Lordship noted that the ordinary meaning of a "leap year" was a calendar year which had 366 days. The *Concise Oxford Dictionary* defined "leap year" as "a year, occurring once in four, with 366 days (including February 29 as an intercalary day)." An intercalary day was a day inserted in the calendar to harmonize it with the solar year.

His Lordship relied on *The Noble* (1891) AC 401, 408 and *Phillips and Stratton v Director Insurance Ltd* (1937) 1 Lloyd's Rep

482, 484-9 to assist in construction deriving the principles that there were exceptions to relying on the ordinary meaning of a word and one could look to the context of the contract when choosing the appropriate meaning.

The construction contended for by Mrs Woolf and upheld by the arbitrator, the investment year approach, resulted in an interest rate of 7 per cent a year, fixed and guaranteed for the first five years a bond was held. The construction contended for by the director, the calendar year approach, did not.

On the director's approach a bond would earn £6,996.83 if bought on March 5, 1996, Mrs Woolf's date of purchase and £7,003.17 if bought on March 5, 1995, Mrs Woolf's date of redemption, resulting in £7,000 being payable in both cases.

The construction upheld by the arbitrator was the only construction that ensured that bonds earned annual interest at the rate published in the *Gazettes* fixed for the first five years a bond was held.

Solicitor: Treasury Solicitor; Treasury Solicitor.

Allocating costs after payment-in

Abada v Gray and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Hutton and Lord Justice Mummery
[Judgment June 25]

Where a plaintiff under a disability recovered less in damages than a defendant had paid into court, the usual consequences as to payment of the defendant's costs after the assessment of the plaintiff's damages were not to be applied unless the plaintiff's next friend had applied, pursuant to Order 80, rule 10 of the Rules of the Supreme Court, for the court to approve acceptance of the payment-in and that approval had been withheld.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by Richard Abada, acting by his mother as next friend, against the decision of Mr Roger Titheridge, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Queen's Bench Division on October 25, 1995, ordering him to pay the costs of the defendants, James Gray and

the Motor Insurers Bureau, from the date that they paid £100,000 into court in an action in which the plaintiff subsequently recovered £73,254 damages for unorthopedic injuries following a road traffic accident.

The Court of Appeal had also dismissed the plaintiff's appeal against the deputy judge's rejection of his claim for damages to be assessed on the basis that the accident and its after effects had caused his schizophrenia.

Mr Christopher Gardner, QC and Mr Simon Briffault for the plaintiff; Mr Stephen Miller, QC and Miss Margaret Bowron for the defendants.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the plaintiff had submitted that the general practice of the court where a payment-in was not accepted was not appropriate where the plaintiff was a person under a disability and where any acceptance of the money paid in would have re-

quired the approval of the court. He submitted that it would not have been payable in the present case to have obtained the court's approval for acceptance of the £100,000 payment-in as the full claim, based on the accident having caused schizophrenia, if successful, would have resulted in an award of over £1.5 million.

However, in his Lordship's judgment, the plaintiff's next friend was not under a disability and had to decide on the information before her whether the payment-in should be accepted or not. In that situation Order 80, rule 10 did not alter the usual practice on costs.

The position would be very different if the next friend had decided to accept the payment-in and had been prevented from doing so by the court.

LORD JUSTICE HUTTON and LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY agreed.

Solicitors: Whitty King & Lee, Bath; Wood & Wainwright, Devizes.

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Fallon in danger of losing ride on Sleepytime

Shantou, nearside, produces a late run to deny Swain in the Princess Of Wales's Stakes at Newmarket yesterday.



[illegible]

FORM FOCUS

THREE TRAINERS last season 1st in 7-runner field at Haverhill (8), good to soft).

BALI DANCE 2nd 3rd of 14 in 4-recurring in seller at Haverhill (8), good. **BELLOW** about 9441 5th of 7 to King Danco in claimer at Choptank (6), soft).

DOCKLANDS DISPATCH 10th 12th of 17 to Yac-

good Times in seller at Thibod (6), good). **SICK AS A PARROT** last season 1st in 7-runner seller at Yonkers (7, firm).

PATRICK OLIVE 2nd 2nd of 4 to Elmendorf in claimer at Hamilton (5), good to soft).

No selection.

[illegible][illegible]

ALAN MUNRO was banned for five days for "irresponsible riding" on Erro Codigo, the favourite for the Dianne Nursery at Pontefract yesterday. Erro Codigo hampered three horses, including the winner, Composition, when Munro moved across from the far rail to the centre of the track.

EVANS MEDIAN AUCTION		EPSON	
2 966- 61 (8)		THUNDERER	
1 66 187 5 Avenue 4-3-4	S Sanders 75	6.30 Bernardo Bellotto, 7.00 Taurini	
YES 25 G. D'Amico, 2nd, 4-9-4	C Cox 171 82	8.00 Traceability, 8.30 Paris Rehe	
F POKKET 12 T. Neapole, 3-2-12			
	Cox 0 104 75		

DRAW: 5F-6F. LOW NUMBERS BEST

E MOTORS SKODA FELICIA

14 ID F G A P Jones 7-4-1	5 Drwara	57	2	2422	BERNARDO BELLOTTO 10 M Bld 9-0
DE 4 ID F G S I C Carrs 5-9-1	W J D'Conroy	93	3	5	COOLIN RIVER 30 K Sicks 9-0

VE 12 (CO 5) P. Mather 4-3-5 A. Stizian (3) 95

11 (J.F.S.) 1 (Endog) 5-8	Corr G (44)	92
	P Cor (77)	92

7.00 PHILIPS LIGHTING MAIDEN
12-3-0 52 195: 1m 4 10: 4 5)

NAME 12 (B) R 4-12-12 G Carter 87

35 (B.C.S.) 0 Handed Jaws 4-9-5 A Mackay 8
EYE 9 (D.F.G.S.) = Mar 5 9-7

7.30 ANDREX HANDICAP
(£3761 70) (15)

USE SPECIALISTS

3140 SPEEDY CLASSIC 23 (D) J. M. Hudson-ET

12 -240 CHEVAL ROC 55 R Harrier 3-8-6
13 0003 SUPREME MAJANOON 12 (1) R. Poigasse

Don't Forget Me **NEWMARKET: 235**
 Middle Pathway Other Three Friends 5-21

... ..

[illegible]

Jockeying for position under the axe



athlete. It is in matters such as this that give sport its great fascination.

Hick, the most powerful batsman seen in many years, made his long-awaited Test match debut, Curtly Ambrose destroyed him forever. Certainly, he was never the same again. He persevered with, treated with kindness and gentleness, given a succession of chances and never made a scapegoat. He made runs, here and there, too, but he never became what he had promised to be for the next long years: the saviour of English cricket. He wasn't hard enough, not fast enough.

Let us turn to Ian Botham. He was England captain, falling 100 down and making a pair at Lord's. Made the scapegoat at the turning-

point of an Ashes series. Resigning, then being stabbed in the back by the chairman of selectors, Alec Bedser, who told the world that he would have been sacked anyway. Botham came back to tear the Australians apart single-handed in the unforgettable series of 1981. Two crises. Two men. Two outcomes.

One terrible and appalling cock-up does not mean that a person is no good. Or not necessarily. The public humiliations of sporting people are always said to be "character-forming"; the truth is that they are character-revealing. They reveal the victim/villain's character to the world, and often enough to himself.

The fact of the matter is that the giving of false confidence is every bit as destructive as vindictive scapegoating. "Confidence is a skill," John Syer, a sports psychologist, told me. "As such, it can be acquired. Saying there are and offering cups of tea or sacking someone — both these things are just amateurish."

Perhaps. But perhaps self-belief is like the law of physics that says that "man cannot make or destroy matter." Mike Brearley, appointed captain in the wake of Botham's dismissal, said: "Beef, are you sure you want to play? If you don't, I will fully understand."

But the psychology, Botham remembers. "Of course I bloody want to play. Brears, I feel good about this match." The rest is history. Or mythology.

NICK GOULD, the local hope, was the first player through to the second round of the Bristol Challenger tennis tournament at Redland Green yesterday. The British No 16, from Cleve, near Bristol, had few problems defeating Barry Cowan, of Lancashire. 6-1, 6-4 in little more than an hour.

Nick Weal, of Hampshire, who reached the final at Bristol last year, fell in the first round, beaten 6-3, 7-5 by Chris Haggard, of South Africa.

Rugby union: Newly-promoted Newcastle face a testing opening fixture in the Allied Dunbar Premiership away to Bath, on August 23. The match will be televised live by Sky. Wasps, the champions, and Leicester are not engaged in the opening round of matches because neither club's ground is available.

Hockey: Maggie Souyave, the England coach, kept faith with the squad that finished fourth in the six nations' competition in Seoul last week for the World Cup qualifying tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe, from August 1 to 12.

Polo: Labegorce, who are put together by the French player, Hubert Perrodo, defeated the Canadian John Manconi's Pommery 9-5 in the Veuve Clicquot British Open at Amersham yesterday.

LABELGORCE: 1, H Perrodo (10), 2 N Labegorce (10), 3 G Gaudin (10), 4 J Le Hardy (4).

POMMERY: 1, J Manconi (1), 2 G Donoso (10), 3 P Allard (10), 4 J Gaudin (2).

Sailing: Irvine Laidlaw's Swan 60, *Highland Fling*, is starting to take a firm hold on proceedings at the Rolex Swan European Regatta at Cowes, where she won her second consecutive race yesterday. There are just two more races left to sail — today and tomorrow.

Rugby league: Bobbie Goulding, the St Helens captain, will lead his side against Halifax Blue Sox on Sunday after undergoing a hernia operation that has kept him out of the game for a month.

BYEN as the Nevada State Athletic Commission prepares to deliver its verdict — on Mike Tyson: for disgracing his sport, the former world champion is beginning to lose respect among boxing circles as a tough hero. Promoters and local fans, however, do not want to see Tyson disappear from the boxing scene for good. For such is the interest in his next contest that when Don King, his promoter, is able to put him back again, he would have no trouble finding millions as large as the La Colosseum at ancient Rome in Chicago. Pay-per-view would be astronomical.

Caesars' Palace, Las Vegas, has said it would gladly put on Tyson when he returns, if MGM does not renew its contract with him. Even MGM's owner, the owner of several casinos in Atlantic City, believes Tyson has become a promoter's dream.

If Tyson had attacked Lewis in the same way?

All this, of course, goes against the grain of public thinking. According to a poll conducted by CBS, 85 per cent believe that Tyson should be given a ban for life. So it is not surprising that members of the public, sports enthusiasts and leading sports columnists in the United States are beginning to fear that the Nevada State Athletic Commission might bow to casino pressure.

Jim Thomas, Holyfield's lawyer, said, "Holyhas no direct interest in watching Tyson. Boxing is another crossroad in the world we're watching. If Mike Tyson is not severely punished, then the wrong message will be sent. Evander wants to see that boxing resumes as an honourable sport."

Those who control the sport in Nevada are making many people believe that a real solution

All around you hear "yes, but," "no more and more: Tyson's action is being seen by boxing people simply as a part of the weary side of a sport that has been thought over the years to be a world of lovable rogues, who do no more than add colour to the game."

Frank Maloney, Lemnux Lewis's manager, believes that the whole business of boxing has got to all but stop. "The one thing that matters in boxing is dollar bills," he said. "Tyson's next fight will be the biggest in the history of the sport. I don't know if I promote it if the novelty goes."

been made behind the scenes. King is thought to have been working overtime to see that Tyson is not out of action for too long.

However, Gordy Fink, Nevada's senior Deputy Attorney-General, said that the commission would be revoking Tyson's licence. "Revoked means revoked," Fink said. "Tyson loses his licence indefinitely." He added that it would be up to Tyson to apply for a new licence and prove that he is worthy of getting one.

Since the incident, the Nevada legislature has approved a bill to confiscate the earnings of boxers who bite an opponent's ear or a foe's nose.

It is hard to believe that barely a month ago, Tyson was being seen in the same circles as a despicable meat, seeking a way out of certain defeat against Holyfield. Now Tyson has become the saviour of the sport. Some people appear to have forgotten the sight of Tyson chewing Holyfield's ears.

The enmity of Tyson's act was vividly illustrated in an article in *the Scientist*. Tom Kiorich, of the University of Minnesota School of Dentistry, said: "Tyson's teeth exerted a pressure of 20 kilograms, the force of our exert, a force of 10 kg. It was shearing and tearing, which is almost alligator-like. The ear is almost cartilage. You have to exert a pressure to bite through it." That would Maloney have thought

which suggests that a life ban will not be imposed on Tyson.

Since Oliver McCall was recently fined \$250,000 and suspended for a year by the commission for refusing to put up a fight against Lewis, Tyson can scarcely expect a similar ban. McCall was a drug addict and a sick man, who was not responsible for his actions in the ring and who should never have been allowed to fight. So, almost certainly, Tyson's ban would have to be for more than a year. It only remains for the commission to decide what period would prove punitive suspension for a man like Tyson.

If Tyson were a lesser figure, he would almost certainly have been given a life ban or be out for at least four years.

He refused to make public criticism of Fallon — merely saying that the whole thing was appalling and people don't have the eyes to see they should not go racing". This does not constitute uncritical support of his stable jockey. Fallon was

But, stunningly, England are not seeking a scapegoat. They have announced that no one is to be jocked off and that they will march into battle at Headingley on July 24 with an unchanged side.

Now this is good news for the chavs who have suffered the oniric

When in doubt, blame the jockey. Find him off in public. Find a peep-hole. And then jock him off. Of which brings us to the 1980s. I must say, the whole thing was appalling. If people don't have the eyes to see that, they would not go to the cricket. The England bowlers let Australia regroup when they had them on the ropes. It was a disaster. Humiliation, but it is poor news for the aspirants who sought their chance in the misfortunes of others. It comes at a time when all the talk is about injecting a hardness into England cricket, a hardness into domestic competition. At the absolute turning-point of an Ashes series, they have gone for easy clubability. It is the kindness, the

athlete. It is in matters such as this that give sport its great fascination.

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2 on CHESS

18	Nk3	Qc7
19	Ne5	Ba6
20	f3	Ne5
21	Bd2	Nd4
22	Cb1	Rb6
23	Qe1	Nd7
24	Qh4	Nf8
25	e4	h6
26	Ng4	Ng6
27	Qh5	Qf7
28	Rse1	Rb6
29	Nf7	Ne7
30	Qh4	h5
31	g4	Q5
32	sef5	Ng6
33	we6	Ra6
34	Bxf6	hxf6
35	Ng2	Rf6
36	Rxf6	Rf6
37	Nd4	Re6
38	Qg5	Ncc3
39	Rc5	Rf4
40	Kc2	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

Times book
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Raymond Keene writes on
business Monday to Friday in
report and in the Weekend
edition on Saturday.

[illegible]

WORCESTER

MURDERER

8.45 Lord Nibrogen. 7.15 Honeybed Wood. 7.45
8.45 Shifting Moon. 8.45 Holdens Hill. 9.15
9.15

MING: GOOD		SIS			
7.46: 2H FOLLY MOVIES MURDER					
7.46: 40 (20) numbers					
1	901	LIGHTNING QUEST 12 (P) 5-10	R. Davis		
2	102	LOD INTOXIGEN 12 (P) 5-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
3	40	PRIME OF LIFE 21 (P) 4-10	J. S. Smith		
4	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
5	344	HIGH SUMMER 25 (P) 7-10	M. A. F. F. F. F.		
6	102	MARION 12 (P) 5-10	R. Davis		
7	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
8	2F	STRONG STRUT 23 (P) 7-10	M. A. F. F. F.		
9	102	PRIME OF LIFE 21 (P) 4-10	J. S. Smith		
10	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
11	102	BETTER WIND 10 (P) 4-10	M. A. F. F. F.		
12	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
13	102	MARION 12 (P) 5-10	R. Davis		
14	102	MARION 12 (P) 5-10	R. Davis		
15	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
16	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
17	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
18	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
19	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
20	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
21	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
22	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
23	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
24	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
25	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
26	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
27	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
28	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
29	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		
30	102	AMERICAN 24 (P) 11-10	M. J. L. Lawrence		

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

1	Thomson Jones	6-12-0	1	0.00	1m	4yds	1	Blackberry Ruckus	4m	
2	A Fitzgerald	11-12	2	0.00	1m	4yds	2	Red	12-3	
3	G Guest	11-12	3	0.00	1m	4yds	3	Brooklyn's Pride	14-1	Russian Owl
4	Rummeny	11-10	4	0.00	1m	4yds	4	E. Indies	Top	1:27.00
5	Williams	11-10	5	0.00	1m	4yds	5	Top	1:57.00	1m
6		6-11-9	6	0.00	1m	4yds	6	Top	1:54.00	1m
7		6-11-9	7	0.00	1m	4yds	7	Flowering	JA Mums	
8		6-11-9	8	0.00	1m	4yds	8	Hardy Dances		
9		6-11-9	9	0.00	1m	4yds	9	Smart Ship	5-11	7-2m
10		6-11-9	10	0.00	1m	4yds	10	Ship	11-4	8-1m
11		6-11-9	11	0.00	1m	4yds	11	Ship	11-4	8-1m
12		6-11-9	12	0.00	1m	4yds	12	Ship	11-4	8-1m
13		6-11-9	13	0.00	1m	4yds	13	Ship	11-4	8-1m
14		6-11-9	14	0.00	1m	4yds	14	Ship	11-4	8-1m
15		6-11-9	15	0.00	1m	4yds	15	Ship	11-4	8-1m
16		6-11-9	16	0.00	1m	4yds	16	Ship	11-4	8-1m
17		6-11-9	17	0.00	1m	4yds	17	Ship	11-4	8-1m
18		6-11-9	18	0.00	1m	4yds	18	Ship	11-4	8-1m
19		6-11-9	19	0.00	1m	4yds	19	Ship	11-4	8-1m
20		6-11-9	20	0.00	1m	4yds	20	Ship	11-4	8-1m
21		6-11-9	21	0.00	1m	4yds	21	Ship	11-4	8-1m
22		6-11-9	22	0.00	1m	4yds	22	Ship	11-4	8-1m
23		6-11-9	23	0.00	1m	4yds	23	Ship	11-4	8-1m
24		6-11-9	24	0.00	1m	4yds	24	Ship	11-4	8-1m
25		6-11-9	25	0.00	1m	4yds	25	Ship	11-4	8-1m
26		6-11-9	26	0.00	1m	4yds	26	Ship	11-4	8-1m
27		6-11-9	27	0.00	1m	4yds	27	Ship	11-4	8-1m
28		6-11-9	28	0.00	1m	4yds	28	Ship	11-4	8-1m
29		6-11-9	29	0.00	1m	4yds	29	Ship	11-4	8-1m
30		6-11-9	30	0.00	1m	4yds	30	Ship	11-4	8-1m
31		6-11-9	31	0.00	1m	4yds	31	Ship	11-4	8-1m
32		6-11-9	32	0.00	1m	4yds	32	Ship	11-4	8-1m
33		6-11-9	33	0.00	1m	4yds	33	Ship	11-4	8-1m
34		6-11-9	34	0.00	1m	4yds	34	Ship	11-4	8-1m
35		6-11-9	35	0.00	1m	4yds	35	Ship	11-4	8-1m
36		6-11-9	36	0.00	1m	4yds	36	Ship	11-4	8-1m
37		6-11-9	37	0.00	1m	4yds	37	Ship	11-4	8-1m
38		6-11-9	38	0.00	1m	4yds	38	Ship	11-4	8-1m
39		6-11-9	39	0.00	1m	4yds	39	Ship	11-4	8-1m
40		6-11-9	40	0.00	1m	4yds	40	Ship	11-4	8-1m
41		6-11-9	41	0.0						

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

KEENE on BRIDGE

*KJ68
 ♥83
 ♦A4
 ♣K654
 ♠N
 ♥W
 ♦S
 ♣+2
 ♥K108765
 ♦J9876

*O94			Fussler: "If 1940 Napoleon won the following game against Botvinnik, yet Najdorf was surprisingly not chosen to compete in the subsequent match tournament to decide the world champion after Alekhine had died in possession of the title. The five players selected by the World Chess Federation were Botvinnik himself, who won, Smyslov, Keres, Reshevsky and Euwe.
*J2			
*K10-2			
*A10-3			
W	N	E	
15	Pass	All Pass	
Pass	3 NT	All Pass	
Trumps by suit. Lead: seven of spades			
(South) with the ♠ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 with the ♡ A K Q J 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 (West) knows the clubs are 4-3 the clubs are 4-3 two tricks clubs and Whichever side have play age.	receive 1NT showed 10-15. If East holds the king of diamonds that won't be enough to beat the contract — if declarer guesses clubs correctly he already has enough tricks. Thus West should simply hope East's high cards are in the best place for defence, and so play East for at least five hearts headed by the king, or for K J x x.		
			White: Miguel Najdorf Black: Mikhail Botvinnik Groningen 1946
			Nimzo-Indian Defence
			1 d4 e6
			2 c4 Nf6
			3 Ng3 Bc6

<p> a high A signifi- er has s. That s. He e play a blish is likely to take East to th's pro- </p>	<p> <input type="checkbox"/> At the BBL Summer Congress, in Buxton, the Swiss Pairs was won for the third year running by J. Holland and R. Fleitschmann. The Swiss Teams was won by Mr and Mrs H. Anzykalis, D. Wazman and J. Williams. <input type="checkbox"/> Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday. </p>	<p> 4 Cc2 5 cc05 6 bc3 7 bc3 8 Nf3 9 Nc2 10 Nc3 11 Qf2 12 e3 13 Ne2 14 Be2 15 Bd1 16 Be2 17 0-0 </p>	<p> d5 exd5 Bc3+ c5 Bb7 Qa4 Na6 c4 0-0 b5 Qa5 Rf6f Ra6f8 </p>
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WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

LUKKEWAAN
a. A liquorice stick
b. A Doppelgänger
c. An African iguana

IMPOOF
a. A powder puff
b. Fireproof
c. An eland

Answers on page 46

18	Nf3	Qc7
19	Nc5	Ba6
20	l3	Nc5
21	Ba2	Ne4
22	Qb1	Rb6
23	Qe1	Nd7
24	Qh4	Nf8
25	e4	l6

26	Ng4	Ng6
27	Qh5	Qf7
28	Rxe1	Rbb6
29	Na3	Ne7
30	Qh4	Is
31	g4	I4
32	exd5	Ng8
33	Qxe6	Rxe8
34	Bxg6	hrg6
35	Nc2	Rhe8

Rxe6
 Nxd4
 Qg5
 Bxc3
 Kg2

Rxe6
 Rf6
 Nxc3
 Rf4
 Black resigns

Diagram of final position

a b c d e f g h
 8
 7
 6
 5
 4
 3
 2
 1

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

REVIEW

Matthew
Bond

this was not top-flight documentary-making. His last project, *The Good Life*, a short series charting the progress of several townies "escaping" to the countryside, was shown only a month ago and enjoyed not a little critical acclaim. *Football Dreams*, on the other hand, fell into the category of "here's one I made earlier".

his new girlfriend. He was just on his way to the shower for a mud-bath. There was a wonderful pause as his well-balanced daughter absorbed the latest piece of information: "That's

While all these 16-year-old boys were running around on Channel 4, Isgard, a 16-year-old girl, was moving rather more sedately as the *United Kingdom* series continued with *Sweet Sixteen*. Charlotte Bill's film worked on all sorts of levels, including playfully confirming all sort of prejudices about a certain type of person who moves to Cornwall: People who call their children Isgard and Hawken and then split up; people who rage against "neo-fascist right-wing governments" while their son quietly sits on with his studies.

Having established that it was, she said goodbye with a sensible piece of advice: "Keep your pants on."

In structure, it was like a junior version of *This Life*, particularly its ability to draw secondary characters into the action. Teachers, boyfriends, best friends, they all had something to contribute. Not more so than Julian, Isgard and Hawken's housemate, who read very bad poem to a very pretty girl on his last day in college, only to be very publicly stood up by her at the Theatre Royal, Plymouth. "I suppose there are all reasons she's not here," he said philosophically, as he wandered off into the night clutching a heavy stone carving he had made specially. Ah, the resilience of youth.

CHANNEL 5

CHANNEL 5 ON SATELLITE
Channel 5 is now broadcasting on transponder N 63 on the Astra Satellite. Viewers with a Videocrypt decoder will be able to receive the channel free charge. Frequencies for transponder N 63 are picture: 10.92075 GHz; sound: 7.02 and 7.20 MHz.

5.00am 5 News Early (5627880)
5.30 Havalozzo (7460267) 8.00 Adventure of the Bush Patrol (7350054) WideWorld. The Living Earth (7359335) 9.00 Espresso (3050825) 10.00 Exclusive (7303335)
10.30 Flights of Fancy A wildlife documentary about the jackass penguin (tr) (7379199)
11.00 Lusa American chat show (8911919) 12.00 Doodle Espresso (19762373) 12.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (7353115) 12.30pm Family Affairs (6994903)
1.00 5 News Update (1011695) 1.05 5 Search (tr) (8977698) 2.00 5's Comedy Live entertainment show (8940151)



Pilot Humphrey Bogart (3.30p)

3.30 Tokyo Joe (1949, b/w) with Humphrey Bogart. A drama about an American in postwar Tokyo who discovers the wife, thought to have been killed by Japanese, is alive but remarried. Dir by Stuart Heisler (1476998)

5.50 5's Company: Late Extra (8809088)
5.50 100 Per Cent (7707498)
6.00 More on Up Fast-moving game (7707002)
6.30 Family Affairs (tr) (7788354)
7.00 Exclusive! Showbiz magazine presented by Julia Bradbury (5047793)
7.30 Treasure Islands The wildlife of Aic in the land in the Indian Ocean (tr) (7787800)
8.00 Instant Gardens Willem Van Hage's team complete the transformation. Clare Blekewy-Phillips's overgrown Oxfordshire garden (6056441)

8.30 5 News (4022248)
9.00 Blind Date (1990) with Corbin Bernier. Drama about the Ku Klux Klan trying to bring down the US Government. Dir by John Korty (6064964)
10.50 The Jack Docherty Show Stephanie Beacham, Ian Heclop, Ann Dugdale, with music by Ian Heclop

1.30 Prisoner: Cell Block H (5652880)
2.25am Live and Dangerous Sports magazine presented by Dominik Dierks featuring coverage of the Japanese equivalent of Britain's Formula 3000 (12586519)
4.40 The Streets of San Francisco (8214671)

CHALLENGE TV

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RACING 42

Fallon threatened with loss of another top ride

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JULY 9 1997

BOXING 43

Sport under scrutiny as Tyson awaits his judgment day



Selectors stand by beaten team

England make statement of Ashes intent

By Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent

IN A move as thoughtful as it was unusual, the England cricket selectors yesterday made a virtue of a setback, reaffirming their faith in the players beaten at Old Trafford by naming them all for the fourth Ashes Test at Headingley, almost a fortnight ahead of schedule.

David Graveney, the chairman, took the decision on Monday after talking to his fellow selectors and to the captain and coach. The XI that lost heavily in Manchester is retained, along with Philip Tufnell, in a pared down party of 12.

The players were told of their reprieve before leaving Old Trafford and Graveney made the announcement yesterday before going to watch his daughter's school sports day. "It is the right thing to do at this stage," he said. "It shows our faith in the players, our belief that they are the best we have."

Mike Smith seems unfortunate to be stood down from the squad on a ground where conditions are sure to suit him, but he is among five players also reported to Headingley on Sunday, July 20 for an extended programme of preparation. Devon Malcolm, another omitted for the forthcoming game, is also in this group, along with Ashley Cowan and the Hollis brothers, Adam and Ben.

Under the regular timetable, the squad would not have been announced until that Sunday, four days before the game begins. Graveney, however, dramatically advanced the process for two reasons. He was keen to avoid prolonged, unhealthy speculation and to give his deflated players "the right sort of vote of confidence".

It might be thought that they are unworthy of it and there will be those who will

say so. By the admission of David Lloyd, the coach, England played "substandard cricket" throughout the five days at Old Trafford and the instant reaction to such shortcomings has traditionally been a clamour for change that the selectors have been unwilling to resist.

With an extra week's break in mid-series — a break, significantly, with no championship cricket for the selectors to observe — the pressure to tinker with the team would have built to a crescendo and the populist vote for the Hollis-

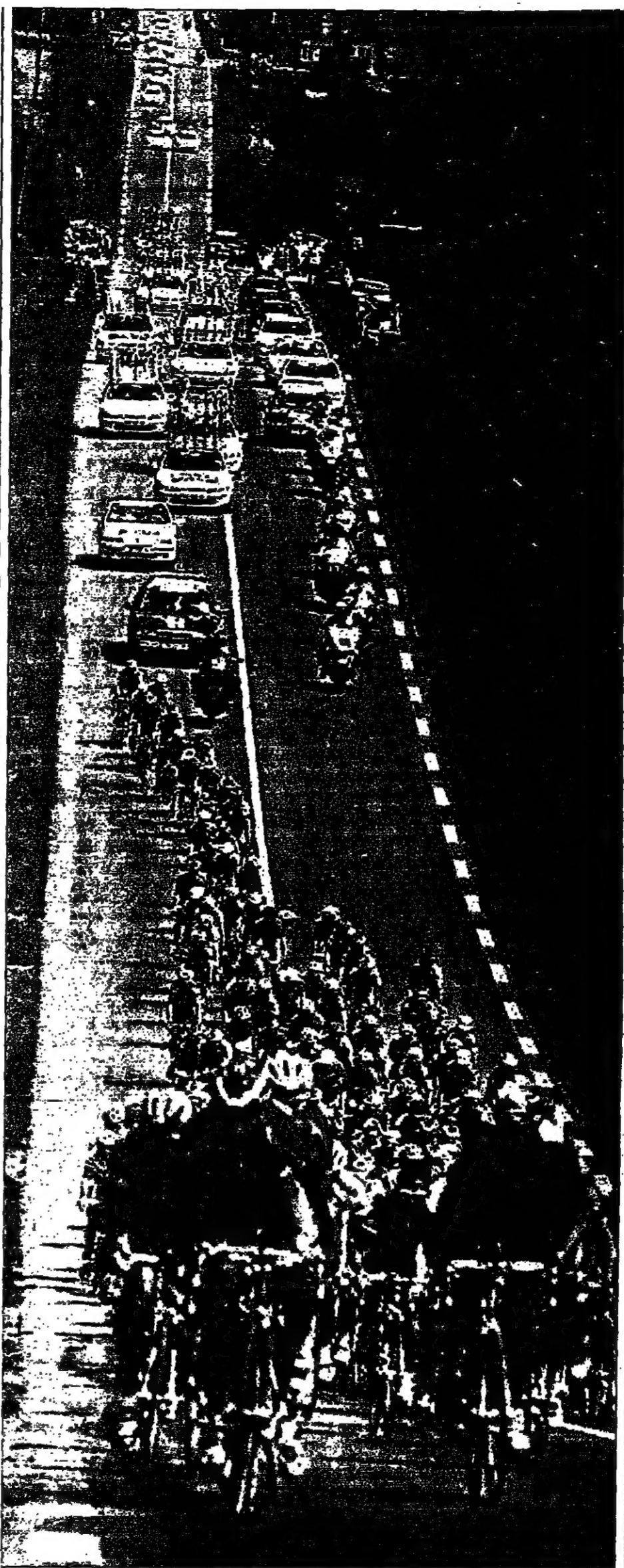
a fact that seems to have been lost in the melancholy reflections. It has been forgotten that Australia were routed in the first Test, just as it has been prematurely assumed that the pattern of previous Ashes series will now be restored. The bookmakers, who had England odds-on for the series before Old Trafford, now rate Australia the 6-4 on favourites after being deluged with bets. One William Hill client staked £20,000 on Australia at 11-10 on yesterday, the most tangible of signs that the patriotic "feel-good" factor has lost its grip.

England have lost momentum at an unfortunate time, but to break up the unit that has been together for some while could only have been to their detriment. Previous selectors have erred by changing the team too often, making it impossible for the building of team unity that has been a feature of England's cricket in the past few months. The present panel — including two recent Test captains who have seen the follies of the past — are determined to foster continuity and, so long as they can do so without encouraging complacency, they are demonstrably in the right.

I would have retained the option of Smith's swing ahead of Caddick's sometimes lethargic seam, but Graveney emphasises that a late change can still be made if exceptional conditions suggest it.

The early gathering at Headingley was planned as long ago as March, at the instigation of Lloyd, and will include a reprise of the type of management training that the players underwent recently. Whether driving Land Rovers through a forest blindfold will properly prepare them for batting against Shane Warne is, of course, a nice point. What this does show is the continuing advance in professionalism of the England management. Not only is it being pro-active in its planning, it is also communicating with players and public. It is almost unheard of.

Graveney, about to take a brief mid-season break in Spain, explained the philosophy of the training day. "It would have happened even if we were 2-0 up, but it is perhaps especially beneficial at 1-1," he said. "It is obvious what we have to do now and it begins with gathering our thoughts in order to recapture the intensity that we mislaid at Old Trafford. We must not be dictated to in our cricket."



The Tour de France moved from Normandy through Brittany yesterday on a stage marred by another mass crash near the finish at Plumelec. Report, page 44

World elite flies in to begin Open build-up

By John Hopkins, Golf Correspondent

THE tournament beginning at the Loch Lomond golf course this morning is just the sort of event that would occur regularly if a world tour got off the ground. Its somewhat lengthy title of the Gulfstream Loch Lomond World Invitational gives an indication of its breadth, because not many American companies sponsor events in Scotland. The fact that five of the world's top ten players are here is an indication of its appeal.

Two further factors have contributed to the success of an event that is only in its second year. The first is that Loch Lomond is one of the best new courses to have been built anywhere in the world in the past ten years. Many leading players shed their normal reservations when commenting on the course designed by Tom Weiskopf. "It's in my top five in the world," Ernie Els, the US Open champion, said. "You can't say anything bad about this course."

The second contributing factor is the fact that this event is being held the week before the Open at Royal Troon and leading players such as Tom Lehman, Greg Norman and Els have flown in from the United States and are using it as a warm-up for the third major championship of the season. "This is an indication of what it could be like — the best players competing with one another," Norman said. "I like playing against someone who can push me along."

One man who has praised the game along this year has been Tiger Woods, the Masters champion, who won his sixth professional title on Sunday evening. He is staying in the United States until the weekend, when he will fly to southern Spain to look at Valderrama, the venue for the Ryder Cup in September.

However, there is a growing reluctance among the players to continue to talk about Woods. "We have reacted to good play, not players," Norman said. "One good player will always make another lift his game."

Els said that he and his peers had worked harder as a result of Woods' performances. Norman, the winner of a US Tour event two weeks ago, has responded to Woods' challenge, as has Els and Colin Montgomerie, who has won two events in Europe and finished second to Els in the

US Open since the start of June.

"Look at the guys who have won these past few weeks," Els said. "Greg has won, I have won, Monty has won. The best players have responded." He then, however, warned against attaching too much importance to Woods. "He is only 21, after all," Els said. "We are playing the game of golf not a game against Tiger Woods. It is not us v Tiger or Tiger v us. It is us trying to put the lowest score on the board."

So, with a strong field competing on a terrific golf course, what should be two cracking weeks of golf start here. No player is going to say that he would rather win on the banks of Loch Lomond than at Troon but, as Lehman put it, a win this week "would be a real nice way of entering Open week".

Montgomerie is one who has a real chance of doing just



Montgomerie confident

that. His round of 62 in Ireland last Sunday was exceptional by any standards. He is clearly brimming with confidence in his own ability and, for this week if not for next, he does not feel the burden of pressure. "I am enjoying myself," he said. "And when you enjoy what you are doing, you are usually quite good at it."

Montgomerie once said he hated seeing Nick Faldo closing in on him — "in my rearview mirror" was how he put it. Montgomerie now casts the same long, menacing figure on those he is chasing, as he was Lee Westwood in the Irish Open.

"I hit my second shot in close on the 1st. That put pressure on Lee and perhaps that is why he three-putted," Montgomerie said. "It was nice to prove myself capable of being No 1 again. I am very comfortable with being No 1."

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